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Commonwealth

Meeting of Heads of Government Begins in Moscow

Burbulis Chairs Session

LD0802081992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Phone report by correspondent Valeriy Kiosa]

[Text] [Kiosa] The CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] heads of governments meeting opened half an hour ago in the Moscow Hotel Oktyabrskaya. Practically all the leaders, heads of government are present, although I should note the absence of Vitold Fokin, prime minister of the Ukraine. The Ukrainian delegation is headed by deputy minister of economics of Ukraine. The meeting is taking place behind closed doors. Journalists were allowed in for three minutes for photographs. It is being chaired by Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy prime minister of Russia.

As for assessments of how that meeting may proceed, I had the good fortune to speak before it started with Vladimir Fedorov, permanent representative of Ukraine for external economic ties with Russia. He thinks that the main thing will be the guaranteeing of mutual deliveries. In his opinion, that is the most complex and sorest question now, since the economy is collapsing and so are links. Moreover, Fedorov said even that it is not the liberalization of prices, assuming of course, it happens, which will give rise to a social explosion, but the mass stoppage of factories due to the nonfulfillment of deliveries. A relevant document has been prepared for this meeting but it is difficult to judge how effective it will be, in Fedorov's opinion.

As far as financial questions are concerned, in particular national currencies, Fedorov thinks it is unlikely that this will be discussed. The question should be prepared accordingly.

Gaydar, deputy prime minister of Russia, thinks that guaranteeing the mutual links of enterprises to prevent their stoppage really will be the main point at this meeting and perhaps also the sorest point. As far as additional questions are concerned, Gaydar thinks it is unlikely they will arise, but as the saying goes, anything can happen. Well, I think that this is all that can be said for now. The meeting is continuing. I will phone the editorial office as soon as anything is known.

Representation Questioned

LD0802101492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0842 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Valeriy Kiosa is again phoning the editorial from the Oktyabrskaya Hotel where the meeting of heads of governments and of their plenipotentiary representatives from the Commonwealth member states is taking place today. We are listening to you Valeriy. Is there any news?

[Kiosa] Yes, as has become clear, in the course of almost an hour the leaders of the delegations discussed the agenda, the agenda of this meeting. At last it was approved. I must say that among the questions that are now being discussed by the premiers or the persons who represent them there are the following issues: ecological cooperation between the Commonwealth member states, the coordination of interstate relations in the sphere of power engineering, and the organization of the hydrometeorological service of the Commonwealth. Remaining on the list of questions being discussed are also such complicated issues as import purchases of food and agricultural raw materials and also the regulation of economic interrelations as regards deliveries of output. This is the sorest subject, which because it has not been resolved is now giving rise to great difficulties in the work of many enterprises. However I must note that problems of financing the Armed Forces have been excluded from the list of questions being discussed. Judging from the agenda that has now been distributed to journalists, such a complicated issue will not be discussed.

One more feature: At the beginning of the meeting a discussion arose between Belarus Prime Minister Kebich and the delegations of the Ukraine and Azerbaijan in connection with the representation of the latter two delegations—they are not headed by prime ministers. As Vadim Dolganov, the press attache of the Ukrainian delegation, said: The Ukrainian delegation has been authorized to take part in this meeting, to state the stance of Ukraine, to discuss a few problems, but it will not sign major agreements, except perhaps documents on the first three issues.[passage omitted]

I must add that upon the completion of the meeting, a news conference is planned where possibly the final accents will be placed on the issues being discussed. For the time being the meeting is continuing behind closed doors and it is fairly difficult to learn about what is happening there. Nevertheless it has become known that the first issue, ecology, has been discussed. However, for the tine being it is not known whether or not documents will be signed. Perhaps, for the time being that is all what I can tell you about the meeting.

[Announcer] Thank you, Valeriy Kiosa. I would only like to say that possibly the stance of the Ukraine, of the Ukrainian delegation, at these talks is explained by the fact the parliament has demanded the government's resignation.

11 Point Agenda Adopted

LD0802112492 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 8 ITAR-TASS—Russian Federation State Secretary and First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis was elected to chair the meeting. Attending the meeting are:

From the Azerbaijan Republic—Deputy Chairman of the Commission for the Commonwealth Affairs Aidyn Azizbekov;

From the Republic of Armenia—First Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan;
From the Republic of Belarus—Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich;
From the Republic of Kazakhstan—Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko;
From the Republic of Kyrgyzstan—Prime Minister Andrey Iordan;
From the Republic of Moldova—Prime Minister Valeriy Muravschi;
From the Republic of Tajikistan—Prime Minister Akbar Mirzoyev;
From the Republic of Turkmenia—permanent representative of the republican government in the Russian Federation Niyazklych Nurklychev;
From the Republic of Uzbekistan—Deputy Prime Minister Rakhim Radzhabov;
From the Ukraine—Deputy Minister of the Economy Anatoliy Rokhanskiy.
Tengiz Sigua, who was officially presented as acting prime minister of Georgia, is attending the meeting as an observer.

The participants adopted the 11-point agenda:

1. An agreement on interaction in the field of the ecology and environmental protection.

2. On coordinating inter-state relations in electric power engineering of the Commonwealth member-states.

3. On organising the operation of the hydrometeorological service of the Commonwealth.

4. On the centralised imports of food, raw and other materials and pesticides on foreign credits.

5. On regulating economic interaction of states in the supply of products.

6. On the differentiated approach to the profitability levels within the 50 percent limits.

7. On financing expenditures on maintaining the working group (the working group of the council of the heads of government).

8. On trade freedom.

9. On transport tariffs.

10. On N. Pugin's proposal concerning the status of the joint-stock company Avtoselkhozmashholding.

11. On financing the Commonwealth Armed Forces in the first quarter of 1992.

During the meeting, a debate over the level of the representation of various republics at it has erupted. Belarussian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich proposed limiting to the deliberative voice the right of the delegations which "do not have powers and are not represented by prime ministers." In an emotional tone, he promised to leave the meeting if his proposal was not adopted.

Agree on Russia as Successor

LD0802123492 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 8 ITAR-TASS—The participants in today's meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government, with the exception of Ukraine, have agreed that "the Russian Federation acts as the successor to and guarantor of foreign credit agreements of the Commonwealth member-states and the Republic of Georgia."

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said if "the Ukraine manages to agree with Western creditors" that it will shoulder the responsibility to them independently, "we will not object."

The Ukraine is known to come out for a separate and direct responsibility to creditors.

All participants in the meeting agreed with the proposal for the centralised imports of food, agricultural raw and other materials in 1992. It was decided to set up an inter-state commission composed of plenipotentiary representatives of the Commonwealth sovereign member-states and the Republic of Georgia to ensure coordination in import operations.

The Ukrainian delegation was against cargoes under import deals to be accepted by the forces and means of the states that have sea ports and railway transshipment points on their territory.

Cooperation Drafts Rejected

LD0802135292 Moscow TASS in English 1313 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 8 ITAR-TASS—Participants in a meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) here today turned down the experts-suggested draft agreements on regulation in the field of trade-and-economic cooperation, during the reciprocal deliveries of output, and on a coordinated procedure for the introduction of ultimate profitability levels in the application of prices in inter-state deliveries.

Instead they decided to prepare a fundamental agreement soon to cover the problems touched upon in all the three previously suggested documents.

A fundamental agreement will be based on two main principles: tough limitations for monopoly entrepreneurs and a transition to world prices in reciprocal deliveries among the CIS countries, Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar pointed out.

He said such deliveries will be paid for in rubles and calculated from dollar-based world prices multiplied by a coefficient. The value of the coefficient will be 20-30, Gaydar believes.

During the discussion, the council session participants disagreed over whether trade "at world prices but in rubles" should be conducted only in raw materials and basic foodstuffs, such as grain, petroleum, coal, etc.—or in all commodities.

Ukraine Advances Own Draft

OW0802155292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vadim Dolganov, spokesman of the Ukrainian permanent mission in Moscow and a member of the Ukrainian delegation, told reporters that the Ukraine put forward its own draft agreement on the stabilization of economic relations in 1992 between the Commonwealth member-states as an alternative to the Russian draft at a Council of the Heads of Governments meeting in Moscow on Saturday [8 February].

The draft provides, in particular, for the preservation of the ruble as common legal tender to be used in financial transactions between the independent states. In addition, the draft calls for enterprises, associations and organization irrespective of the form of ownership to abide by taxation laws of a country where they are located. The document also contains obligations by the signatories to prevent the production they supply to each other from being re- exported.

According to Vadim Dolganov, the delegations of Uzbekistan and Belarus were "favorably" disposed to the draft. All parties came to the conclusion that both drafts need to be discussed.

The Ukrainian delegation also took a special position with respect to centralized imports of food, agricultural raw materials, equipment and insecticides using foreign loans. Unlike Russia, Ukraine rejects the principle of a joint and several responsibility for loan repayment in favor of a unilateral responsibility by each republic for the money it receives from foreign partners.

Ukraine Delegation's Powers

OW0802160392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian delegation to a summit of the heads of governments of the Commonwealth member-states under way in Moscow is authorized to take decisions on three issue related to environment, the setting up of a unified agency for hydrometeorology, and coordination of energy supply plans. These issues have been agreed upon by experts well in advance.

With regard to all other issues, it is not authorized to sign any documents in Moscow. It may only outline the republic's position on the issues and later inform the Ukrainian leadership about the other states' views, Vadim Dolganov, spokesman of the permanent Ukrainian mission in Moscow, who is a member of Ukraine's official delegation at the Moscow summit which opened in Moscow on Saturday [8 February], told IF [INTERFAX].

The Azeri delegation has also circulated a statement with respect to its powers, Mr Dolganov said but would not elaborate.

He explained that Ukrainian prime-minister Vitold Fokin could not come to Moscow due to "a tense situation in the republic and because he is to present a report on his government's activity to the parliament in Kiev on February 8." According to Mr Dolganov, some Ukrainian MPs [member of parliament] insisted on a non-confidence vote but finally the government's report was approved.

Armed Forces' Financing Not Settled

LD0802170792 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 8 ITAR-TASS—A session of the Council of Heads of Government of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member states ended here today, but it did not settle the problem of financing the CIS Armed Forces, Secretary of State and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Government Gennadiy Burbulis said at a press conference, held after the end of the session.

He explained that defence ministers of CIS member states would meet next week. They will discuss the concept of the CIS Armed Forces and principles, according to which armaments will fall under the category of conventional or strategic weapons. "After that we shall be able to settle the financing problem," Burbulis added.

According to Burbulis, Russia is actually financing all the Armed Forces on the territory of the Commonwealth and on the territory of the three Baltic states.

Meeting Closes; Results Viewed

LD0802205192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1755 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (TASS)—The council of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] heads of government closed its meeting in Moscow tonight with the signing of five documents defining interaction among CIS members in a number of economic areas. Prime ministers and representatives from 11 CIS countries participated, as well as a group of observers from Georgia's interim government led by acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua. Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian secretary of state and first deputy prime minister, chaired the meeting. The Ukrainian delegation was present today only in an advisory, nonvoting capacity, its head—the deputy economics minister—not having been vested the appropriate powers by Prime Minister Vitold Fokin. This is why it did not sign the adopted documents.

Participants were unable to reach consensus on and conclude three agreements already prepared: on regulating mutual trade and economic dealings, on regulating mutual supplies, and on an agreed procedure for introducing maximum profit margins when pricing deliveries from one state to another. Instead, it was decided to draw up a foundation agreement embracing all these issues soon. The meeting discussed but was unable to resolve the issue of how to finance the Commonwealth's Armed Forces.

The question of centralized procurement for imports of food and agricultural supplies, materials, and herbicides using foreign credits caused a lively debate. The Commonwealth states and Georgia proposed centralizing procurement for imports in 1992 and instructed Russia to act as "successor in rights and guarantor" of their credit agreements. However, the Ukrainian delegation announced that it was unable to accept the formula of joint and several liability, favoring instead "separate and direct liability to one's creditors." Participants agreed that nine CIS countries plus Georgia recognize Russia as guarantor of their credits, while Ukraine will handle this issue independently if it can make arrangements with Western creditors.

The meeting adopted an agreement on coordinating on environmental and conservation issues and completed work on a protocol on coordinating interstate electricity dealings. This document notes that an electricity council of the Commonwealth's top managers in this field will be established and that an integral power grid will be developed. It was decided that the Commonwealth countries will cooperate in meteorology. A five-year agreement on transit via CIS members' territories was signed, setting forth the principles of unhindered passage of goods. During the debate on this, the Ukrainian delegation tried to amend the substance of the document by proposing its own way to handle goods in transit, namely with checks and fees when crossing Ukraine's borders. However, this stand did not find support.

A protocol was adopted increasing the cost of transportation between the states: railway freight tariffs go up 8.3 times and passenger rates treble compared to those in force on December 31 1991. The meeting decided on financing for a working group (about 100 people) for the council of heads of government and examined an issue not originally on the agenda: the status of foreign students undergoing tuition in CIS countries. It was decided for the time being to reaffirm the appropriate accords of the former USSR and to begin drafting new documents.

The next session of the Council of Commonwealth Heads of Government should take place on 13 March, also in Moscow.

[Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 8 February, during its regularly scheduled "Novosti" newscast, carries the following recorded comments by Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian first deputy prime minister, at a news conference in Moscow following the meeting: "We avoided an exhausting discussion on various types of details; we valued one another's time. A worthy respect for the very body of the council of heads of governments emerged. I can note with satisfaction that time after time both the nature of the discussion and the quality of the decisions adopted acquired the necessary fullness of content on which our practical activities will also depend."]

Ukraine 'Hindered' Accords

LD0902110292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] In the opinion of representatives of the Russian delegation, at yesterday's Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] heads of government meeting Ukraine hindered reaching several important cooperation accords. In particular, a general agreement could not be signed on Russia being the guarantor and spokesman for the other CIS countries at talks on foreign credits for food and raw materials purchases.

True, agreements on interaction in transport, environmental protection,and electricity were signed at the meeting yesterday.

Differences Not 'Insurmountable'

OW0902154392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commenting at IF's [INTERFAX] request on the results of Saturday's session held by the council of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] prime ministers, deputy head of Ukraine's mission in Moscow and a member of its official delegation Viktor Lisitsky said that his delegation signed none of the documents because it was not authorized to do so.

With reference to Ukraine's disputes with Russia on fundamental issues he said that they concern primarily the problem of food credits: while Moscow favours collective responsibility for the funds allocated, Kiev stands for direct and separate credits responsibility for which would be borne by each recipient republic.

The Ukrainian delegation took no part in discussions on the issue of financing the CIS Armed Forces in the 1st quarter of this year, since, as V. Lisitsky said, Kiev "undertook to ensure supplies for the Army stationed on Ukrainian soil". He drew attention to the special stand taken by the Ukraine on environmental protection and on the problem of free transit of goods.

In an exclusive interview for IF Russia's deputy prime minister Yegor Gaydar said that he doesn't view differences with Ukraine as "insurmountable".

Protocol on Rail Rates

LD0902114292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1045 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] [no dateline as received] Protocol from the session of the Council of Heads of Government of Commonwealth member countries on matters concerning transport rates

Increase current (as of 31 December 1991) rates on interstate communications:

Freight transport by rail—by 8.3 times
Passenger transport by rail—by 3 times

The above rates go into effect as of the moment when this protocol is signed.

Concluded on 8 February 1992 in the city of Moscow in a single original in the state languages of the states that are parties to the current protocol with all texts having equal force. The original is to be held by the government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send the certified counterpart of the current protocol to the states that are parties to it.

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The protocoal was signed by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Protocol on Power Engineering

LD0902140492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1025 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] [no dateline as received] Protocol from the session of the Council of Heads of Government of Commonwealth member countries on coordination of interstate relations in the sphere of power engineering of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]

Taking into account the increasing strain in providing the Commonwealth states with electrical and thermal power, the shortage of electrical capacity and fuel, and with the aim of making electrical power more manageable, stabilizing its development, and preventing accidents on an interstate scale in power engineering systems:

1. To create an Electricity Council [elektroenergeticheskiy sovet] made up of the heads of electrical power engineering bodies of CIS member states to coordinate interstate relations in the sphere of electrical power engineering.

2. To agree with the proposals of the heads of electrical power engineering industries of the Commonwealth states on the need to set up under the Electricity Council a working body, an executive committee, based in Moscow.

3. To empower the Electricity Council to carry out joint or coordinated actions ensuring the functioning and development of a single power engineering system in the interests of each state.

4. To ensure that the Electricity Council periodically holds its sessions in the capital of the state whose electricity chief is the president of the council.

5. To instruct the top chiefs of the electricity bodies of the Commonwealth states to prepare an agreement on the coordination of interstate relations in the sphere of electrical power within the Commonwealth of Independent States for signing by heads of government on 14 February 1992, defining in it the functions, structure, and the sources of financing of the Electricity Council and its working bodies.

To define in the agreement the procedure for bringing into it other states whose electricity grids function in parallel with the unified electricity grid, and also other states interested in its development.

6. Concluded in the city of Moscow on 8 February 1992 in one copy in the Azerbaijani, Armenian, Belarussian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Moldovan, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek, and Ukrainian languages. All the texts have binding force. The original copy is kept in the archives of the government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send the states party to the present protocol a certified copy of it.

The protocol was signed by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan. On signing, the Turkmenia representative made the following note: Point 2, which envisages the creation of an executive committee, is to be omitted.

Protocol on Food Imports

LD0902141492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1035 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] [no dateline as received] Protocol on centralized imports of food, agricultural needs, materials, and pesticides envisaged in the food agreement

The Governments of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenia, the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and the Republic of Georgia have agreed on the following:

1. To form by 14 February 1992 an interstate commission, made up of plenipotentiary representatives of the governments of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Republic of Georgia, in order to coordinate work on the practical implementation of decisions on questions connected with imports of food, and to entrust the preparation of

regulations governing this commission to the government of the Russian Federation (V.M. Mashits).

2. The sides agreed that the Russian Federation will act as guarantor and negotiate on their behalf with third parties and international financial organizations on the receipt and use of credits for the purchase of food and raw materials. The sides confirm to the Russian Federation their responsibility for repaying credits granted for the purchase of food and raw materials that have actually been supplied.

3. The sides agreed to set up, within the interstate commission, a working group to organize imports of food and agricultural needs and to coordinate their delivery.

4. In its practical work the interstate commission is to be guided by the agreement between the sovereign republics (states) of 13 November 1991 on food supplies during 1992.

5. The sides agreed to ensure that import cargoes are received and handled, without any hindrance, by the manpower and facilities of those states in which seaports and rail junctions are situated. The sides also agreed to regard any act that impedes the handling of food cargoes as unfriendly acts.

6. The sides agreed to credit funds, in freely convertible currency, to the accounts of the foreign trade associations, Eksportkhleb and Prodintorg, so they can make punctual payment of interest on external debt, settle freight charges, and pay for insurance of food shipments within the quotas defined by the accord between the heads of government of 2 November 1991, bearing in mind the actual quantity of food delivered.

7. The sides took note of a statement by the Ukraine on its position with regard to separate moves to obtain food credits.

8. This protocol was enacted in the city of Moscow on 8 February 1992, in 12 copies, one each in the language of the states that have signed the protocol. All texts have identical validity.

The protocol was signed by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and also by the representative of Georgia.

Agreement on Ecology

LD0902194992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1017 GMT 9 Feb 92

["Agreement on Cooperation in the Sphere of Ecology and Environmental Protection"]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The parties to the agreement, referred to henceforth as the high contracting parties, recognizing the right of each individual to a natural environment favorable to life and ecological safety; conscious of their responsibility before their peoples and the peoples of other countries as well as future generations for ensuring favorable conditions for life and well-being; on the basis of the right of each state to establish procedure for using the earth, its underground resources, forests, waters, the plant and animal world, and other natural resources; proceeding from an understanding of the integrality and indivisibility of the natural environment and the united interests of all states in protecting and steadily developing it; noting that borders between states do not coincide with natural ecological borders and basin borders; and acknowledging that economic and other activity on the territory of one state must not damage the natural environment, quality of life of the population, or economic activity of other states;

Guided by the need to pass agreed legal measures in the sphere of the ecology and environment protection, and also agreed standards and ecological norms to ensure the ecological safety and well-being of every human individual;

Conscious of the need to carry out coordinated fundamental and applied ecological research;

Desirous of coordinated action in the sphere of the use of nature and in solving ecological problems;

Agree upon the following: Article 1

The high contracting parties will elaborate and carry out a coordinated policy in the sphere of ecology and protection of the natural environment (protection and use of land, soil, mineral resources, forests, waters, atmospheric air, the plant and animal world, the natural resources of the continental shelf, economic zone, and open sea beyond the limits of national jurisdiction), taking into account the international agreements concluded earlier by the USSR (list attached). Article 2

The high contracting parties undertake on their territory to:

Draw up and pass legislative acts, ecological norms and standards in the sphere of the use of nature and environmental protection;

Keep a census of natural resources and their use according to quantitative and qualitative indices and carry out ecological monitoring;

Implement effective state control of the conditions and alteration of the natural environment and its resources;

Take measures to renew wildlife resources and to preserve and restore biological variety;

Develop a network of nature reserves, sanctuaries, national parks, and other specially protected territories and natural complexes, and restrict economic and other activity in the zones adjacent to them;

Make an all-round assessment of the ecological effects of economic and other activity conducted on their territories;

Create and maintain special forces and resources essential for preventing ecological catastrophes, disasters, and accidents, and for dealing with their aftermath;

Carry out expert ecological inquiries into programs and forecasts for the development of productive forces, investment, and other projects;

Take measures to develop ecological education and upbringing, and to ensure glasnost in ecological matters;

Set scientifically substantiated quotas for using natural resources for economic and other activity, and also ceilings on their irretrievable removal, taking account of the need to ensure general ecological security and prosperity;

Keep state lists of endangered species and provide material for keeping an interstate list; and

Observe commitments stemming from international agreements previously adopted by the USSR and the republics.

Article 3

In order to conduct coordinated policies in the area of ecology and protection of the natural environment, the high negotiating parties have decided that it is necessary:

To harmonize legislative acts, ecological norms, and standards that they adopt in order to protect the natural environment;

To set up and implement joint interstate programs and projects in the area of the use of natural resources and protection of the natural environment and ecological safety, including programs for safe destruction and neutralization of chemical and nuclear weapons, and of toxic and radioactive waste;

To apply the same approaches, criteria (indicators), methods, and procedures in assessing the quality and control of the state of the natural environment and of the human influence exerted upon it, ensuring the compatibility of the data on the state of the natural environment on an interstate and international scale;

To use the agreed methods for the evaluation of the effects of economic and other activity on the natural environment;

To standardize methods for regulating man's effects on the natural environment;

To use agreed methods for monitoring genetic changes in communities of living organisms and the protection of rare and disappearing species and their natural habitats;

To create and support an interstate ecological information system and present information for use by other high contracting parties;

To draw up and implement agreed scientific and technical policies in the sphere of ecology and the protection of the natural environment, while carrying out coordinated basic and applied ecological research;

To elaborate and use general principles to stimulate activities for the protection of nature and sanctions for violations of law to protect nature;

To be guided by general methodological requirements when carrying out ecological examinations of programs and forecasts for the development of productive forces and investment and other projects; and

To draw up the conditions and procedures for using special forces and means to render mutual aid in the event of emergency ecological situations, for the elimination of the their consequences, and for participation in corresponding international actions. Article 4

In order to fulfill the provisions set out in Article 3 of this agreement, the high contracting parties have agreed to set up an interstate ecological council and, under it, an interstate ecological fund for implementing coordinated interstate ecological programs, primarily for dealing with the aftermath of ecological disasters. The procedure for the creation and the operation of the interstate ecological fund is to be determined by the interrepublican [as received] ecological council.

Article 5

The high contracting parties entrust the interstate ecological council with:

Coordinating and conducting the agreed policies in the spheres of ecology and the protection of the natural environment;

Conducting, with the participation of representatives of the sides involved, the ecological examination of programs and forecasts for the development of production forces and of investment and other projects, the implementation of which touches on or may touch upon the interests of others and more high contracting parties;

Rendering assistance in the resolution of ecological disputes between high contracting parties;

Keeping an interstate red book and preparing proposals and materials for an international red book; and

Jointly determining with the high contracting parties involved the conditions and procedures for their participation in carrying out obligations ensuing from international agreements adopted previously by the USSR in the spheres of ecology and the protection of the natural environment.

The leaders of the nature protection departments of the states participating in the agreement of independent states are members of the interstate ecological council, which functions on the basis on equality and adopts its decisions on the basis of consensus.

The powers of the interstate ecological council and of the working bodies set up by it and the procedures for the financing of these are set out in protocols that are an integral part of the agreement. Article 6

Participation in this agreement does not affect the rights and obligations of the high contracting parties in accordance with treaties concluded previously or in accordance with treaties that may be concluded in the future in developing the principles of protecting the natural environment on which the present agreement is founded. Article 7

The high contracting parties will jointly devise the policy, rules, and procedures relating to responsibility for violations of the clauses of the present agreement. Article 8

The present agreement comes into force on signing. Article 9

The present agreement is open to joining by any other state committed to achieving the objectives and tasks of the present agreement. Article 10

At the end of five years from the day the present agreement comes into force, any high contracting parties can renounce participation in the present agreement, after having notified the depository in writing. The renunciation of participation comes into force on 31 December of the year following that in which the depository was notified. Article 11

Concluded in Moscow on 8 February 1992 in one copy in the Azeri, Armenian, Belarussian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Moldavian, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek, and Ukrainian languages. All texts have equal force. The original copy is kept in the archives of the government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send a certified copy of it to the states participating in the present agreement.

The agreement is signed by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, and Uzbekistan.

On signing, the representative of Turkmenia made the following note: to omit from Article 4 the sentence on the setting up of an interstate ecological fund, and from Article 5 the sentence on the setting up of working bodies and the procedures for their financing.

Transit Procedures Agreement

LD0902212492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The meeting of the Council of the Heads of the Governments of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] ended in Moscow on Saturday, 8 February, evening with the signing of five documents defining cooperation between the member states of the Commonwealth in a number of areas. Taking part in the meeting were the prime ministers and their representatives from 11 CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states and a group of observers from the provisional government of Georgia.

Below follow the texts of the adopted documents. [Only the text of the agreement on transit provisions was transmitted as part of this item; others transmitted as separate items]

Agreement of the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on Transit Procedures:

The governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenia, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine, henceforward called the contracting parties;

Being guided by the principles determined in the agreement setting up the Commonwealth of Independent States of 8 December 1991 and the Alma-Ata declaration of 21 December 1991;

Pursuing the goals of ensuring the effectiveness of the direction of external economic activity in states belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States (henceforward called the Commonwealth);

Having in mind the protection of their economic sovereignty; and

Confirming their adherence to the principles of the freedom of transit have agreed on the following: Article 1

For the purposes of the present agreement, the terms occurring below have the following meaning:

A. "Third states"—states not forming part of the Commonwealth;

B. "Cargo"—goods belonging to economic subjects, or unaccompanied baggage and motor vehicles of citizens, acquired in a Commonwealth state or in a third state. Article 2

Cargo being imported from third states into a Commonwealth member state in transit across the territory of other Commonwealth states, and cargo being exported to third states from the territory of one of the Commonwealth states in transit across the territory of other Commonwealth states is subject to customs registration in the state of destination or the state of origin of such cargo, respectively. Article 3

The contracting parties recognize each other's stamps and customs procedures and provide one another with specimens of them.

Article 4

Freight transported between customs services of the Commonwealth states is free from customs duties, taxes, and levies for customs registration in transit states and from the necessity of receiving permission for transit.

Such freight is free from customs examination. The movement of freight through the territory of the states is regulated in accordance with international rules of transportation. Article 5

Freight exported to third states and not registered by the customs service of the state dispatching it is not permitted transit through the territory of the Commonwealth member states or passage through to third states. Such freight is to be detained for customs registration by forces and means of the customs service of the state of dispatch. All expenditure connected with the detainment of the freight will be transferred to the account of those dispatching it. Article 6

The contracting parties will present each other with lists of goods banned for import to, export from, and transit through their territories. Article 7

The contracting parties will not allow the reexport to third states of goods imported for domestic consumption into the territory of one of the states of the Commonwealth from the territory of another state of the Commonwealth without special permits from the authorized bodies of the former state, unless the authorized bodies have agreed otherwise.

The contracting parties will inform each other of the bodies authorized to issue permits for re export. Article 8

Violation of the clauses of the present agreement by economic subjects and citizens will result in the application against the guilty party of sanctions stipulated by the legislation of the state, in the state on the territory of which the violation was committed. Article 9

All matters of dispute relating to the implementation and interpretation of the present agreement will be resolved through consultations among the customs services of the contracting parties.

The contracting parties will instruct their national customs services to conclude an agreement on the procedures for the customs registration of transit goods. Article 10

The present agreement has been concluded for five years and comes into force on signing.

Any of the contracting parties may renounce participation in the present agreement six months after it has notified the depository of the present agreement of this in writing. Article 11

The present agreement has been concluded for a five year period and comes into force from the day of its signing.

Any of the contracting parties can renounce participation in the present agreement six months after giving notice of this in writing to the depository of the present agreement. [redundancy of Article 11 to Article 10 is as received] Article 12

Made in the city of Moscow on 8 February 1992 in one authentic copy in the state languages of the states participating in the agreement, with all texts having identical validity. The authentic copy is given over for safekeeping to the government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send a certified copy of the present agreement to the states participating in it.

The agreement has been signed by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgysztan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, and Uzbekistan.

Hydrometeorology Agreement

LD0902220892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1050 GMT 9 Feb 92

["Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Hydrometeorology"]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The participants in the agreement, henceforward called the high contracting parties,

Recognizing the importance of the regular receipt and use of hydrometeorological information for ensuring the safety of the population, for the effective running of the national economy, and for ensuring defense capability;

Conscious of their responsibility for ensuring safe and propitious living conditions and timely protection from natural disasters;

Noting that the development of hydrometeorological processes is dynamic and takes place without regard for state borders and that the correct interpretation of hydrometeorological data requires the use of information from large territories that do not coincide with administrative or other divisions;

Conscious of the need to carry out coordinated fundamental and applied research of interstate importance and interest; and

Desirous of coordinated actions in the field of the exchange of hydrometeorological information

Agree on the following:

Article 1

The high contracting parties will devise and implement a unified policy in the area of the acquisition and use of hydrometeorological information, including compliance with a coordinated observation methodology and process for gathering and circulating information, bearing in mind the international agreements worked out previously and concluded by the former USSR.

Article 2

The high contracting parties pledge to ensure in a concerted and coordinated manner:

The regular exchange of hydrometeorological information, including in the event of natural disasters;

A coordinated methodology of hydrometeorological observations;

A coordinated process for the gathering and circulation of hydrometeorological information;

Scientific research of common interest (the development of long-term weather forecasts, methods of actively influencing meteorological processes, and others), and research into global phenomena (climate change, destruction of the ozone layer, etc.);

The organization of the provision of hydrometeorological information for the armed forces;

The joint training of personel in the field of hydrometeorology;

The fulfillment of international obligations and cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization.

Article 3

In order to implement the clauses envisaged in Article Two of this agreement, the high contracting parties have agreed to create:

The Interstate Council for Hydrometeorology as a coordinating institution of the Commonwealth of Independent States carrying out functions in the areas of activity enumerated in Article Two;

The Interstate Council for Hydrometereology consists of heads of the hydrometeorological services (committees or directorates) of the member states of the agreement, and functions on the a parity basis.

A permanently functioning executive committee should be set up under the Interstate Council for Hydrometeorology as its working body.

The powers of the Interstate Council for Hydrometeorology and its executive committee and the procedure for their financing and work are set by a protocol which is an integral part of the agreement.

Article 4

Participation in this agreement does not affect the rights and obligations of the high contracting parties in accordance with previously concluded treaties or with treaties that may be concluded in the future in developing the principles of hydrometeorological services on which the present agreement is founded.

Article 5

The high contracting parties will jointly devise the policy, rules, and procedures relating to responsibility for violation of the clauses of the present agreement.

Article 6

The present agreement comes into force on being signed by those empowered by the high contracting parties.

Article 7

The present agreement is open to be joined by any other state committed to achieving the objectives and tasks of the present agreement.

Article 8

Any of the high contracting parties can withdraw its participation in the present agreement by notifying the depository in writing at any time on the expiry of five years from the date this agreement coming into force. The withdrawal becomes effective for this contracting party on 31 December of the year following the one in which the depository was notified about the withdrawal.

Article 9

Concluded in Moscow on 8 February 1992 in one copy in the Azeri, Armenian, Belarussian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Moldovan, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek, and Ukrainian languages. All texts have equal force. The original copy is kept in the archives of the government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send a certified copy of it to the participants in the present agreement.

The agreement is signed by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

On signing, the representative of Turkmenistan made the following note: to omit the proposal for creating a working body—the executive committee—acting on a permanent basis.

13 March Heads of State Meeting Previewed

OW1002145192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF's [INTERFAX] sources, the next meeting of Commonwealth premiers, due March 13, will focus on customs policies, pension rises, a coordinated tax and price policy, and on setting up a single statistical service for the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. The republican prime ministers will consider the possibility of forming an inter-bank union, and discuss the servicing of the foreign and internal debts of the former Soviet Union, as well as the unfreezing of republican accounts in the ex-USSR Foreign Economic Bank. The agenda may be revised after the CIS heads of state meet in Minsk next Friday [14 February].

Chairman of Economic Committee Gives Briefing

PM1002084692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 First Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Nikitin on "recent" news conference by Minister Vladimir Mashits, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Economic Cooperation With the Commonwealth Member States: "Two 'Associations' Will Form In the Commonwealth"]

[Text] He said that one of these "associations" [kompaniya] will be "closer, and the other less close." That situation is by no means contrary to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] idea, and does not mean that Russia intends to sever relations with anyone. It is simply that differentiated regimes of economic activity will be established among countries. But our "close association," which Kazakhstan and Belarus have recently joined and which, rumor has it, Kyrgyzstan is planning to join, will always keep its doors open.

The preservation of a single currency, coordination of export and import policy, and the regular presentation of information on banking activity—these three points must be fulfilled by the former union republics if they are to count on maintaining favorable terms in reciprocal trade with Russia. States which introduce national monetary units, engage in the reexportation of Russian natural resources and goods to third countries, and engage in the unrestrained and uncontrolled emission of "noncash" money will lose many of today's advantages. The Ukraine, Moldova, and the Baltic states are in danger of being first on the "blacklist."

Irrespective of the proceess of countries joining various internal unions, they will all in the near future have to set about settling the contentious issues that arise every day, forming a "dense tangle of contradictions." There is hope, V. Mashits said, that it will be possible to unravel this tangle to some extent at the meeting of heads of government provisionally scheduled for 7-8 February. First and foremost it will be necessary to reach agreement on the implementation of a reasonable and coordinated prices policy.

It is no secret that the prices at which Russia sells strategic raw materials to its former comrades are considerably lower than world prices. As a result of subsidies of this kind our republic has a positive trade balance only with Azerbaijan, and suffers losses with all the others. Despite this, certain sovereign states have recently been shamelessly inflating prices for their output.

Recently, for instance, the Donetsk miners stated that they will not sell coal at less than 1,600 rubles [R] a tonne. Of course, in response Russia could either stop deliveries of timber to the Donbass, or offer Ukraine oil at the present speculatory dollar rate, that is, at R16,500 a tonne. While the former option would lead to the stoppage of all the pits, the latter would totally "block" the Ukrainian economy in three weeks. However, the Russian Government does not intend to resort to extreme measures, and will continue to put its trust in the conclusion of civilized agreements.

A lengthy negotiation process lies ahead on the question of the shareout of former Union property. Today virtually all the republics are beginning to realize that attempts to seize that property on the principle of actual geographical location can only lead to a further escalation of mutual conflicts. As V. Mashits observed, after the disintegration of Austro-Hungary it took nearly 60 years to resolve this problem. It is quite likely that we will have an equally long path to travel. The most important thing is to be cautious in our approach to events and try not to be too emotionally impressionable.

And it is no use constructing illusions that economic ties that developed over decades can be broken in a moment. The existing division of labor is such that you only have to stop one little plant, and several sectors of industry in all 15 republics are put out of action. Not even Russia can today part with the CIS countries painlessly and be completely satisfied with economic cooperation with the West.

V. Mashits stated that he is optimistic about the future, and he shared his prediction of the development of relations among the Commonwealth members. The whole of 1992, he said, will be spent sorting out contradictions. There will be still more costs resulting from the "euphoria of national-political origin," as well as "recurrences of attempts to resolve your own problems by strong-arm methods." But economic realities will quite quickly make people get down to work.

In a year's time, when many of the contentious points will have been settled and the reforms will be bearing their first fruits, interstate relations will be much warmer and friendlier. And everyone will finally realize that we cannot survive without each other.

Baltics

Mironov Appointed Army Withdrawal Commissioner

LD0602155892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Today at the Baltic Military District Headquarters there was a news conference. Answering correspondents' questions was Major General Mironov, who on 25 January, by order of Russian President Yeltsin, was appointed commissioner on questions of the presence and withdrawal of the Army in the Baltic Military District. Mironov reported that at the moment the Army is in difficulties with supplies for the units in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, because customs are forbidding the transfer of food products and fuel. To the question whether the resolution by former USSR President Gorbachev on the transfer of the former headquarters of the Baltic Military District to Adazi was still in force, Mironov replied in the affirmative, but it would require

35 million rubles and a huge communications structure. Therefore this question has been shelved for the time being.

Experts To Begin Planning

LD0702221392 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2130 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] On Monday, 10 February, talks will begin between a group of experts from the Baltic States and representatives of the High Command of the Soviet Army aimed at planning a project for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from he territories of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania.

Working Group; Single Visa Regime Advocated

LD0902174992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] A joint working group of the Baltic Foreign Ministries will be organized and a single visa regime will in the future exist between the Baltic states.

Yesterday and the day before a conference took place in Riga of representatives from the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Foreign Ministries at the level of deputy foreign ministers. Estonia was represented at the meeting by Deputy Foreign Minister Enn Liimets. In an interview to the Baltic News Service, Mr. Liimets said that particular attention at the meeting was focused on practical steps toward setting up a joint working group of the foreign ministries of the three Baltic states.

The group's task would be to draw up documents recommending work of both the Baltic Interparliamentary Assembly and the Baltic Council. The formation of such a working group is necessary in order to allow for proper preparation of the documents at the Baltic Council. [passage omitted] According to a preliminary plan meetings will take place once a month, the deputy foreign minister added.

A principled decision was made at the meeting of Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian deputy foreign ministers in Riga with regard to the introduction of a single visa regime. At the same time Liimets noted that not all conditions have not yet been met in order to introduce a single visa regime. At present our borders are not yet firmly closed, we do not have our own passports, and so on. Thus a single visa regime cannot be implemented, Mr Liimets said. According to the deputy foreign minister, such a step will become possible when all three Baltic states are equally capable of controlling their eastern as well as western borders.

Pessimism About Economy, Democracy Apparent

OW0902163492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1554 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "People in the Baltic countries are concerned about the Soviet military presence, according to a survey conducted last October at the request of the European Community by Saar Poll, a joint stock venture, in a number of East and Central European countries in samples of one thousand of respondents each.

The survey has shown that market-oriented policies receive support from 75% of Lithuanian citizens, 57% of Latvians and 59% of Estonians, with the majority of the Balts endorsing, unlike citizens of Russia and Poland, "the general direction" their states are heading in.

At the same time, the survey demonstrates that people in the Baltic countries are quite pessimistic about economic prospects and the way democracy is developing there. Thus, only Lithuanians are content with the development of democracy in their country. The discontent is especially wide-spread in Estonia where 67% of non-Estonians are not satisfied with the republic's human rights record and feel they are being discriminated against.

Military

Baltic Sea Fleet Issue Commands Attention

Ukrainian Oath Appeal Published

PM1002095792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Attempts by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry To Entice Sailors to Its Side Are Continuing. So Far There Are Only Promises"]

[Text] Sevastopol, 6 Feb—The Crimean mass media have published an appeal by the Ukrainian defense minister to Black Sea Fleet sailors to encourage those who are still wavering to take the Ukrainian oath. But, as is well known, the overwhelming majority of the sailors have taken the oath of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] strategic forces.

The appeal states, in particular, that, contrary to the laws of the state on whose territory they are serving, officers, warrant officers, and their subordinates who have taken a military oath of loyalty to the people of the Ukraine are being subjected to pressure today. They are being victimized for having made a conscious choice in favor of an independent Ukraine and a final decision on their citizenship regardless of their nationality.

The appeal goes on to say that the Fleet's officers and warrant officers who have been dismissed from their posts because of their patriotic motives or have been transferred to the reserve for this reason will be enlisted for service in the Ukraine's Armed Forces, be reinstated in their posts while preserving all civil rights and privileges...

It is being pointed out among the sailors that such an attempt to entice even a small proportion of personnel to the other side, bypassing official accords, can only further exacerbate the situation around the Black Sea Fleet. Serious people who hold high posts probably should not compete in promises to officers and warrant officers who are just two steps away from the poverty line and waiting for their fate to be decided.

Chernavin Holds News Conference

PM0702110592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Captain Third Rank A. Pelts "Direct Line": "Navy Commander Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Chernavin: You Cannot Allow Everybody To Be in Command of the Fleet Pending a Political Solution"]

[Text] Admiral of the Fleet V. Chernavin, commander of the Navy, has held a routine news conference at the Navy Main Staff for central and foreign mass media.

In particular, he offered an assessment of certain recent events connected primarily with the Ukrainian defense minister's appeal to Black Sea Fleet personnel and propaganda activity about Ukrainian deputies' abortive meeting with Fleet Commander Admiral I. Kasatonov.

"What are particularly worrying," the Navy commander stressed, "are the reports that have appeared alleging that persecution and pressure have begun against officers and sailors who decided to swear allegiance to the Ukraine. That is simply untrue. We have no intention of coercing and compelling anyone. But nor can we allow anyone to expedite events before the adoption of political decisions, still less exert direct pressure, as the Ukrainian defense minister's appeal does."

Many questions were put to the Navy commander regarding the progress of talks on "dividing" the Black Sea Fleet into a Ukrainian fleet proper and a strategic fleet remaining under joint command. The admiral of the Fleet noted that on this issue too it is still proving impossible to avoid difficulties and misunderstandings. The Ukrainian side first proposed a simple "arithmetical" division based on the principle "you take this, I take this." This method was proposed both for surface ships and for submarines, irrespective of the specific nature of the tasks they perform. This course is unacceptable, naturally. The sides' positions are now being clarified. Talks are continuing, but, according to the Navy commander, as yet they cannot be described as successful.

Explanations were also given regarding the fate of the new warships being built in Ukraine. After completion of the necessary work, ships intended for other fleets, manned by personnel from those fleets, will be transferred to their permanent bases. The rumors that have appeared regarding the transfer of Black Sea Fleet ships to other bases are totally without foundation.

"We intend to resolve all problems only on the basis of mutual agreement, in a calm atmosphere without nervousness and prejudice," Admiral of the Fleet V. Chernavin stressed.

Further on Chernavin Brief

PM0702111192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by special correspondent Colonel Viktor Baranets under the rubric "About Naval Service...": "They Have Divided Up Power. Now for the Ships?"]

[Text] Navy Commander Admiral of the Fleet V. Chernavin has held a briefing. The main theme was the situation in the Black Sea Fleet. Journalists asked about the results of the talks.

The admiral said that they cannot be described as successful. The possibility of the transfer of the Black Sea Fleet's main naval base from Sevastopol to somewhere else was raised. It was noted that this question was not examined. Since in the Navy "no one has any intention of dividing up anything." All that is possible is the allocation of certain forces and resources to the Ukraine.

Why did the scandal over the group of Ukrainian Supreme Soviet people's deputies whom Admiral I. Kasatonov allegedly refused to allow on board the ships arise? It transpired that the deputies had not notified the commander in advance but arrived without notice during an important conference. He postponed the time of their meeting with sailors. But off their own bat the deputies went to a marine brigade. They were not allowed in, since in the prevailing situation the fleet commander has temporarily banned representatives of various parties, agitators, and social and other organizations from visiting ships and units.

The speaker was asked about his attitude toward the Ukrainian president's attempt to remove the commander of the Black Sea Fleet from his post. "This is an attempt to settle scores with the disobedient admiral. My attitude toward it is negative, like that of Commander in Chief Shaposhnikov," V. Chernavin replied. He also described B. Yeltsin's initiatives in the military sphere as "rightful" [pravomochnyy]. Their implementation must be carefully planned and studied in the light of all the possible consequences, and also in the light of the real U.S. reciprocal measures to reduce strategic offensive arms.

There was laughter in the hall at a question from a British journalist:

"Is it true that there is only one naval officer in the Ukrainian Defense Minister, and he is a former depot chief?"

"That may be close to the truth, but I don't have any such information," the admiral of the fleet replied.

To be serious, the briefing demonstrated yet again that the situation in the Black Sea Fleet is unfortunately being transformed into unsavory intrigues with a pronounced political complexion, threatening to cause a serious dispute between peoples whose friendship is marked by many centuries of fraternity.

Report Responds to Krachuk Demand

OW0702173092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet Staff Report released on Friday [7 February] says that the Black Sea Fleet is an integral part of the new Commonwealth's forces. The report is in response to the demand from the Ukranian President Mr Kravchuk to dismiss Admiral Igor Kasatonov.

The Staff believes that he does his duty with honour and that his dismissal may cause serious trouble. The report also points out that the Black Sea Fleet personnel have taken an oath to the new Commonwealth and attempts by some officers to make them take another oath, to the Ukraine are running counter to the decision taken by the presidents of the member-states of the Commonwealth.

'Political Indecisiveness' Blamed

LD0702200392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1842 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nikolayev, 7 Feb (TASS)—Admiral Igor Kasatanov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, has said that what is happening today in the Fleet is a consequence of political indecisiveness. He was paying a short visit to Nikolayev to find out how refits of vessels are going and to check up on the financing of the work.

Admiral Kasatonov voiced the hope that decisions will finally be made on 14 February. The Fleet cannot belong to any one state. And this, he remarked, has been acknowledged by both Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin. The Black Sea Fleet belongs to the Commonwealth. We should not be taking the oath to any one state.

Touching on the situation in Sevastopol, the commander announced that both aboard the Fleet and in Sevastopol itself the situation is calm. No order has been given forbidding the swearing of oaths either to the Ukraine or to Russia. All these rumors are just a way of inflaming the situation. And someone or other is making political capital out of it. Admiral Kasatonov emphasized yet again: No republic - and that includes Russia - can maintain and own a fleet like this on its own.

Division; International Obligations Viewed

LD0702211592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] We receive many letters from our listeners asking questions concerning the problems of Armed Forces of the former USSR. Listeners are particularly interested in the division of the Army and the ex-Soviet Union's international obligations in the military sphere. We addressed these questions to the Commonwealth of Independent States' Supreme Military Command. The answers are as follows:

Under a decision worked out by experts, two-thirds of the ex-Soviet Union's ground-based Armed Forces, including armor and artillery, and two-thirds of aviation not to be reduced under the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe will belong to Russia. The rest will be distributed among its partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States within the borders of the former Union.

A draft bill on the treaty's ratification has already been submitted to the Russian parliament. The parliaments of other former Soviet republics are expected to adopt a joint document in support of the treaty.

As far as a 700,000 cutback of the Russian Army staff is concerned, it will be carried out mainly through the ex-Soviet troops' withdrawal from Germany, Poland, and the Baltic states. Such are the basic principles of the conventional disarmament in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Another international document, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, has also been submitted to the Russian parliament for ratification, and is to be passed by three other nuclear republics of the Commonwealth—Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. The timetable for the strategic nuclear withdrawal from these republics has been worked out: the Ukraine is to finish it by 1994; the terms for Belarus are 1995-1996; and for Kazakhstan 1998-1999.

As for tactical nuclear weapons, the Russian Foreign Ministry's advisor Geliy Batenin said that practically all of them had already been delivered to Russia for destruction. He also said:

[Begin Batenin recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] Out of all former Soviet nuclear republics, Russia as the biggest one received the right to concentrate the Soviet nuclear weapons on its territory, since it possesses all necessary technological means for their destruction. This and other military issues are expected to be discussed and ultimately coordinated by the Commonwealth leaders during a meeting in Minsk scheduled for 14 February. [end recording]

Withdrawal of Forces From Poland Detailed

LD0802052792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0105 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 8 February (ITAR-TASS)— All combat units of the Northern Group of Forces (NGF) will leave Poland before 15 November 1992, Colonel-General Viktor Dubynin, Commander of the NGF, said in an interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the newspaper reports today. The 6,000 servicemen of the NGF who are remaining in Poland to guarantee the passage of the Western Group of Forces through the country, will be withdrawn before the end of 1993 even if the Polish side has not signed a withdrawal agreement by then.

According to data given by the commander, to date, over 23,000 servicemen have left Poland. There are 35,000 men remaining in the NGF. Over this time, 10,250 units of arms and materiel and 250,000 tonnes of various supplies have been withdrawn.

As of 1 January 1992, 97 military bases, 11 garrisons and eight aerodromes have been handed over to Poland. However, a treaty on the withdrawal of the NGF and a protocol on settling property, financial and legal questions in which the conditions for mutual settlements should be agreed, still have not been signed.

Army Officers' Assemblies Chairman Interviewed

PM0702113192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 1

["Topical Interview" with Captain First Rank A. Mochaykin by Lieutenant Colonel V. Zyubin; place and date not given: "Unity of Officers Corps Will Make Acute Social Problems Easier To Resolve"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Excerpts] He was born in Ukraine in 1948. He went to school in Nagorno-Karabakh. He worked in Ilichevskiy Ship Repair Plant. He was drafted into the tank troops and served there for two years, and then studied in a military academy. He was promoted from lieutenant to captain first rank in the Northern Fleet submarine forces. He took part in many extended patrols. His most recent post was assistant commander of a submarine division for work with personnel.

On 31 January this year, he was elected chairman of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces Officers' Assemblies Coordination Council.

He is married with two children. [passage omitted]

[Zyubin] In your opinion, what is the main task facing the Coordination Council?

[Mochaykin] Once the independent states were formed, that meant that they could form their own armed forces. We are not questioning this. I see our task as something else—preserving the unity of the officers corps of the former USSR Armed Forces. In the transitional period (until 1995), this would make it easier to resolve acute and urgent social issues. I am sure that it is only in that event that politicians will heed our voices. And then, we must maintain a great sense of responsibility in fulfilling the military duty in the officers corps.

[Zyubin] What will you start off with in your work?

[Mochaykin] First and foremost, we must become more closely acquainted with the officers who are in the Coordination Council. Then there will be a meeting with the CIS Armed Forces command. We must visit the units and formations and explain to servicemen the essence of the decisions that the council has adopted. We hope that the mass media will support us in this issue. We must prepare for the visit of the heads of state in Minsk.

We are faced with the task of implementing the Officers Assemblies' decisions and demands. We are insisting on this.

[Zyubin] And what are the mechanisms for the implementation of these demands?

[Mochaykin] We have the right to legislative initiative. We will do all we can to make sure the heads of Commonwealth states and other countries in the former Union where our troops are stationed have an understanding of our problems. And first and foremost an understanding of questions of the servicemen's social and legal protection.

We are not interfering in politics, and certain other tasks are not our problem. I would like to stress that this is not a question of ultimatums. We simply want to make the heads of the sovereign states aware of our concern, heed the voice of the officers' fraternity, and give every kind of support and assistance to the commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces.

And there are masses of problems. After all, servicemen are now sometimes being denied basic human rights. In the Baltic states, for example, there are instances of officers and their families being expelled from their apartments and civilians being installed in their place. Officers' children are not being accepted at nurseries, or astronomical prices are set in the knowledge that the officers will not be able to afford it. Never mind the position of servicemen in the so-called "hotbeds." There officers and members of their families are being taken hostage and being killed.

Or take military reform. It has already been talked about since 1987, but its social consequences have not been properly taken into account. And one last example. We find it rather perplexing that when Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin addressed the All-Army Officers' Assembly, he did not say anything about the planned reduction in the strategic forces. Suddenly an unexpected announcement was made. I read this document with pencil in hand. What is the meaning of cutting back six nuclear powered vessels, for example? After all, there are officers serving there who do not have apartments, and there are masses of other social problems. The old idea of coming off a ship and going straight to a dance can now be replaced by the idea of going to a labor exchange. Unemployment is even threatening nuclear specialists and designers of new ships. After all, we have to think of this.

Take the situation of yesterday's officers and warrant officers who are pensioners today. I am a regular officer, I serve in the North and, with all the positive factors, even I can only just make ends meet.

[Zyubin] Yes, there is a difficult economic situation in the country at the moment. Where is the money to come from?..

[Mochaykin] That is true, but look at what is happening. Take the written-off equipment. (Of course it cannot be used to solve all the problems, but still). We are being told that the localities will receive 2 percent of the funds earned in their sale. Do we see this 2 percent? And we really need the money. Take our garrison. We are in dire need of a nursery.

I do not know of a single officer who has bought a written-off UAZ jeep or other equipment. Do you think they do not need it? They do. Only everything disappears and no one knows where it goes.

[Zyubin] When you were elected you said that you are aware of the hyper-complex nature of this post. What do you see as the main difficulty?

[Mochaykin] At the present phase, to find mutual understanding with the leadership of the independent states. I will try and get involved in direct dialogue. By doing so I do not want to in any way belittle the importance or authority of the commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces. But the independent officers' organization has empowered me to speak on their behalf and ask questions that are worrying them.

[Zyubin] I know that you have already received several telegrams and people keep telephoning from various districts to congratulate you. Judging by the tone of these congratulations, you could say that people believe in the capabilities of the Coordination Council.

[Mochaykin] Maybe. I did not even imagine such a swift and tumultuous reaction. This inspires me and in many respects places obligations on me.

[Zyubin] The Coordination Council was created within a matter of hours at the All-Army Officers Assembly. Officers demanded that emergency powers be bestowed on this organ—including the right to participate in the talks between the leaders of independent states on military questions. Was a decision adopted on your participation in the Minsk meeting?

[Mochaykin] The All-Army Officers Assembly and the Coordination Council made such a demand. But we have not yet officially presented the leadership with this question—we have not had the time.

I can only say that the members of the Presidium and I will be in Minsk 14 February anyway. We had a call from the Belarussian Military District yesterday and our comrades assured us that they would be expecting us and that they are taking all technical and organizational matters upon themselves.

[Zyubin] As you are a sailor, I have to ask you about the Black Sea Fleet...

[Mochaykin] Even as a student I was interested in naval history. So I rummaged through all the libraries, including central ones, but I could not find anything about the history or development of a Ukrainian fleet. Apart from some scanty information about ships which the Cossacks sailed down the Dnepr. And then, from the point of view of strategic security, I do not see any need to create a Ukrainian Black Sea fleet. It is another matter that they should have coast guard ships, border guard vessels, and so on.

When I see what passions are seething on the subject of this question, I feel like saying; "What on earth are you doing, good people!"

[Zyubin] Are you going to move your family to Moscow?

[Mochaykin] No, certainly not. My family is staying in the north. Now is not the time to do this. There is a great deal of work to be done.

[Zyubin] This is the first time you have spoken to the central press in your new capacity. You have the chance to address the Armed Forces officers.

[Mochaykin] First and foremost I would like to thank the officers corps for bestowing great trust on me and I will do everything I can to prove them right.

I would like to appeal to the officers for calm and self-restraint. Rash actions must not be committed now and ill-considered statements must not be made. A very great deal depends on our position. We must prevent civil war. I would advise those officers who have become disillusioned, have given up on everything, and are trying to be released and go home by fair means or foul, to learn to display a certain amount of patience. People are not waiting for you with open arms out there—they have a heap of their own problems. So stay where you are until the social and legal guarantees are determined, and I hope that these will be adopted in the near future.

[Zyubin] Have we left out any important aspect in our discussion?

[Mochaykin] I am often asked the same question: How will the Coordination Council build its mutual relations with other structures, in particular the Committee for Work with Personnel? The commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces will resolve this question. As far as we are concerned, the Coordination Council does not intend to work under any apparatus or any structures. We are an independent organization. But we are prepared to cooperate with everyone.

[Zyubin] I wish you every success.

[Mochaykin] I am honored!

Rights Declaration Adopted

PM0702131192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Expressing the Will of Officers"]

[Text] The Coordinating Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces Officers' Assemblies and the Border Guard, Internal, and Railroad Troops has adopted a declaration to the peoples, parliaments, and heads of state of the Commonwealth, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

The All-Army Officers' Assembly was sympathetic to the process of acquisition of statehood by former members of the USSR, the declaration notes. The appeal by heads of state to representatives of the officers corps has been received with interest. However, unilateral measures are being taken in several states, which are considerably complicating the process of constructive preparation for the talks between heads of state on 14 February this year. A split is growing between political realities and legislation. As a result, thousands of servicemen and members of their families are without citizenship, housing, or any prospect of a normal life.

Given this extremely complex situation, and as an expression of the will of the officers who make up the Armed Forces, the Coordinating Council declares:

While recognizing the right of every sovereign state to establish its national armed forces, we refuse to pay for the actions of politicians with our own lives and the lack of rights and the sufferings of our families. The process of establishing interstate relations should develop in an exclusively peaceful way. The use of force will lead to deadlock and an escalation of civil war. The stability of the Armed Forces is a guarantee of the successful implementation of political and economic reforms in all the sovereign states.

The Coordinating Council, the declaration notes, calls for the signing of a package of interstate treaties 14 February to promote the achievement of civil peace, as well as the discontinuation of unprepared reductions in troop levels and the redeployment of troops prior to the implementation of the formulated interstate program of social and legal protection for servicemen and members of their families. It also calls for inappropriate cutbacks in military and scientific potential to be disallowed for the purposes of preserving international stability. It invites the Commonwealth heads of state to be sympathetic to the Coordinating Council's proposals and give its representatives an opportunity to participate in the Minsk meeting.

The declaration stresses that the Coordinating Council does not express the interests of any political party and, moreover, it is not one itself.

Yazov Opines on Problems Faced by Armed Forces

LD0802043992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0051 GMT 8 Feb 92

["Article by Dmitriy Yazov in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Dmitriy Yazov, former minister of defense of the USSR, who is accused of involvement in the August 1991 putsch, expressed his opinion on the problems of the Armed Forces of the disintegrating Soviet Union on the pages of the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA today. The article was written by Yazov in a preliminary inquiry isolation cell of Matrosskaya Tishina jail and was handed over to the newspaper's editorial board by his lawyer.

Concentrating upon the "possible negative military and strategic consequences of the collapse of the Union," Yazov expresses the opinion that "the general defense potential of the Commonwealth is already weakened and the alignment of forces in the world is imbalanced."

"It is important to proceed from the principle: Don't break the old until the new has been created," the author writes. "Unfortunately, the principle of removing bit by bit still holds sway."

Proceeding from the formula of preserving a common military and strategic space under a single command, contained in the statement on the creation of the CIS, Yazov comes out in favor of "the creation within the framework of the Commonwealth of a body similar to the staff of the Warsaw Treaty Organization headquarters or the North Atlantic Assembly. [as received]"

However, he notes that the version of going over from a single armed forces to a united armed forces does not suit many new states: "Some states want to have their own armed forces to resolve internal republican problems, while others for interrepublican territorial ones. Still others would like to derive a certain economic benefit."

"There is just one solution," Yazov thinks. "Since Russia is recognized by the world community as the successor to the former Union then, consequently, it is the successor to its armed forces."

The author paints a gloomy picture of the present domestic economic situation: "The country is moving toward capitalist relations. Moreover, primary capital often is being made with the help of deceit, theft, and larceny. The economic and spiritual links between the regions are being broken...production is being cut back catastrophically, factories are coming to a halt. Economic life is dying away."

Recalling the latest initiatives by Russia in the sphere of arms restrictions and reductions, Yazov thinks that it would be premature now to express a definitive opinion about it. "However, one gets the impression," he continues, "that inadequate steps are being taken on the part of the United States in this respect and that the desire to obtain...unilateral advantages, to deviate from the principle of parity, are to be seen in the position of the U.S. Administration."

Problems, Future of Northern Fleet Appraised

LD0902211592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0740 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The next subject of our Mayak Panorama is the Northern Fleet and its future. Our correspondent Valeriy Anuchin is in the Murmansk studio. Hello.

[Anuchin] Hello. Only yesterday I was with the Northern Fleet. What amazed me was that many warships which should have been at sea were actually berthed in port. There is no fuel and the sailors' food supply situation is bad. They even have to pay contract prices for food. [passage omitted]

Here in the studio I have Captain First Rank Dmitriy Aleksandrovich Mokrushin, an officer who has served on diesel and nuclear submarines and on surface ships. He is still a serving member of the Navy. He is very familiar with today's problems in the Navy. I would like to ask him to talk about this.

[Mokrushin] [passage omitted in which Mokrushin talks about the geographical advantages and importance of the Northern Fleet; other fleets are inhibited by straits or ice; thanks to the Gulf stream the Northern Fleet has direct access to the ocean] Valeriy Alekseyevich, you said that the warships are back at their base. Yes, that is true. We have many vessels at base at the moment. This is partly because we have been forced to save fuel. But really it has more to do with the fact that our warships are now rehearsing shore tasks. I wish to stress that plans for combat training, combat service, and combat patrols are being carried out in full. In spite of the extremely difficult economic crisis, officers, warrant officers, petty officers, and sailors are demonstrating the best qualities of patriotism, diligence, tenacity, and discipline. [passage omitted in Mokrushin answers a question about the 60 nationalities represented in the Fleet; some young sailors from the Ukraine and Kazakhstan are receiving letters from parents and friends advising them to return home]

[Anuchin] Dmitriy Aleksandrovich, there are, as I know, problems with food and apartments. There are a multitude of problems in the Fleet. I even get the impression that the Fleet is gradually disintegrating.

[Mokrushin] [passage omitted in which Mokrushin talks about love of the people, the state, and the Fleet, the importance of social security] Let us take the question of food. The main problem in supplying the Northern Fleet with food is the lack of deliveries, above all those regulated by state orders. The Fleet is now forced to buy the most expensive produce which others refuse to take. More than 20 representatives of the Fleet's logistic service are now spread out over various parts of the country. For more than two months now they have been tracking down food, sometimes having to pay the most unbelievable prices. Sailors' vests used to cost 2.2 rubles [R]. We now pay over R130.

Take another aspect—morale. The Army and Navy are now the target of great criticism. These attacks start whenever people want to conceal deeper vices in society and leave them undisturbed. Hostility toward the Army is usually motivated by a guilty conscience and fear of performing service and duty. Our shortcomings are sometimes written up and reported with poorly concealed schadenfreude.

[Anuchin] Your problem with apartments is just as bad.

[Mokrushin] Valeriy Alekseyevich, we do indeed have a big problem with apartments. A large number of officers and warrant officers are being discharged into the reserve. Naturally they and their families are not all that keen to remain in the Arctic region in these exceptionally harsh conditions. But we are owed a great deal by the organs of Soviet power. There is nowhere to return to, especially in these complex conditions, now that these extremely complex interregional conflicts have arisen in our country. Some people cannot even return to their home areas.

[Anuchin] However, there is some good news to report from the Northern Fleet. When the crew of an aircraft-carrying cruiser which was being built on the Black Sea arrived in Murmansk, they found that apartments had been built for them. Construction is continuing even now. In this instance the Fleet managed to find some funds.

[Mokrushin] Yes, but these apartments are being built at a distant garrison where it is impossible to rent housing, and where there isn't even a hotel. If this had not been done, there would have been nowhere to put the officers and their families. But the question is more than this. Our state must make proper arrangements for servicemen being discharged into the reserve. We now have over 500 officers who have completed their proscribed terms of service and have no housing outside the Navy. The prospect of being left without accommodation is, of course, very worrying for every officer, from lieutenant to admiral, who is nearing the end of his service.

[Anuchin] I have another question. Is the Fleet actually necessary? What likely enemy does it have?

[Mokrushin] Valeriy Alekseyevich, a responsible householder always gets himself a good reliable lock when he is building his house. He never thinks about the person whom this lock is intended to keep out. The same applies to the Army and Navy. They are institutions of our state. Other countries have their own armies and navies. Naturally we need to have ours too. [passage omitted]

Economic

External Trade Drops 38 Percent in 1991

OW0802050092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The external trade turnover of the former USSR last year was down 38% as compared with the previous year, from 131.5 bln. [billion] to 81.5 bln. rbls. [rubles] (under the commercial exchange rate of $1 to 1.7 rbls.).

The import of commodities was down 46.2% in the current prices from 70.7 bln. to 38.0 bln.

The Russian Board of Statistics says the Russian Federation accounted for 80% (34.5 billion roubles) of exports and 59.3% of imports (22.6 billion).

The 1991 export of all items, except coal, was down.

The export of oil was down from 99 mln. [million] tons [as received] to 53.9 mln. tons, of petroleum products from 27.5 mln. tons to 21.9 mln. tns. and of natural gas from 96 bln. cbc. mtrs. [cubic meters] to 88.9 bln.

Experts at the Russian committee for external economic ties blame the crisis of Soviet external trade in 1991 on the frustration of inter-industrial and inter-republican economic ties, the transition of Soviet industries to hard currency transactions with East European countries and the peak of foreign debt payments.

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Feb

LD0802075392 Moscow TASS in English 0625 GMT 8 Feb 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 8 (ITAR-TASS)—"An economic state of emergency should be introduced, if only for one year, and a comprehensive plan for transformations should be worked out to prevent the country from being ruined completely and to avert the formation of a mafia-dominated state, governing the poor, instead of a civilized market", Russia's Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy states in a two-page article published in today's PRAVDA. The article is strongly critical of the Russian reform-minded government headed by Yegor Gaydar.

Emphasising an utter lack of any differences with Russian President Boris Yeltsin over his political programme in the field of economic reforms, the vice president accuses his "government team" of failing to work out "a clear-cut programme to implement the main elements of the radical reform proclaimed by the president".

Former Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov, who is a defendent in the case concerning the August 1991 coup, in an article published in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, shares his opinion about the problems of the Armed Forces of the crumbled Soviet Union. The article was written by Yazov in the Matrosskaya Tishina investigation ward and was handed over to the newspaper's editorial office by his defence lawyer.

Focusing his attention on "possible negative military-strategic consequences of the break-up of the Soviet Union", Yazov points out that "already now the overall defence potential of the Commonwealth of Independent States is weakened and the correlation of forces in the world has been thrown out of balance".

"It is important to follow the principle of not breaking up the old foundations until a new one has been built. Unfortunately, the principle of pulling apart is predominant so far," Yazov writes.

Commenting on the latest peace initiatives of the United States and Russia, the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points out:

"As before, we at first learn about the major steps of our leadership in the field of security from foreign news media (as was the case with Boris Yeltsin's recent interview with the ABC television network).

"Even when new initiatives become known at last, it is practically impossible in this country to specify or find out any additional details (which usually takes place at hearings in the U.S. Congress). Unlike the proposals made by President Bush, Yeltsin's initiatives have not been duly discussed in the Russian parliament up to now".

Reporting the critical condition of the Baltiysky Zavod, one of St. Petersburg's largest enterprises which has found itself on the verge of bankruptcy because of the disruption of inter-business ties, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA quotes a spokesman of the plant as saying as follows:

"We do not want our plant to be auctioned in line with the Russian version of the privatisation programme. The prospect of working for the West to provide it with raw materials and cheap labour does not suit us either. If our voice is not heeded by those who have got to office and are busy dividing the country, a social outburst would be inevitable".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Colonel General Vladimir Dubynin, commander of the northern group of troops (NGT). "More than 23,000 servicemen have left Poland as of today since the beginning of the troop withdrawal. The NGT has 35,000 servicemen now. A group numbering about 6,000 men will remain in Poland at the beginning of 1993", Dubynin said.

At the same time, Dubynin said, "the two sides have not up to now signed a treaty on the withdrawal of the NGT or a protocol on a settlement of property, financial and legal matters, in which terms for mutual monetary settlements should be stipulated. The Polish side apparently expects that it will get our property free of charge".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA continues an inquiry into possible channels for the outflow of "CPSU gold" abroad. According to the newspaper, "at least 75 political parties improved their well-being at the expense of the Soviet Union in the period of 1986 to 1990 alone.

Press Review for 10 Feb

LD1002085792 Moscow TASS in English
0728 GMT 10 Feb 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Today's newspaper PRAVDA carries reports about two rallies held by supporters and opponents of the Russian Government's policy in Moscow on Sunday [9 February].

About 100,000 members and supporters of the Labour Russia and Labour Moscow movements and the Russian Labour Party gathered in Manezh Square demanding the restoration of Soviet power and the Communist Party and protesting against the "break-up of the country" and its economy, and "persecution of Communists".

Democratic forces rallied in front of the Russian parliamentary building. The 100,000-strong rally criticised Russian President Boris Yeltsin for pursuing double politics, seeking support from both democrats and Communists. Demonstrators stressed that the Russian parliament is "inclining to the right" and urged a trial for party functionaries. The Moscow police said the rally was attended by about 30,000 people.

Citizens of the Russian Far Eastern city of Vladivostok also took to streets on Sunday to protest against the current course conducted by Yeltsin and Russian Vice-Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar.

Supporters of the Labour Russia movement also held rallies in Yekaterinburg, Angarsk, Voronezh and Rostov-on-Don.

The newspaper ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reports about the opening of a congress of civil and patriotic forces in Moscow.

This is the first attempt to unite movements and parties which call themselves patriotic, the newspaper said, adding "it was strange to see 'undying' democrat Aksyuchits or human rights activist Ogurtsov, who spent 20 years in prison, or priest Polosin being united by common political efforts with Communist Umalatova, leaders of the group Soyuz and representatives of the Russian People's Congress, who held their first congress in December in the spirit of 'neo-Bolshevism'".

PRAVDA publishes an interview with Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev, in which he describes the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States as an "attempt to stop the ruination".

He stressed the need for integration and closer cooperation between Commonwealth states.

PRAVDA carries an interview with Abel Aganbegyan, rector of the Russian Academy of the National Economy, in which he speaks about a joint project to regulate the market.

The project, to be discussed at an upcoming conference at the academy, aims to bridge "the gap between the modern economic thinking and the backward legal practice".

The talks on the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Poland are at an impasse, PRAVDA says. It carries an interview with Viktor Dubynin, commander of Soviet troops in Poland.

The newspaper COMMERSANT reports that documents found in former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's archive prove that U.S. prisoners of war were held in the Stalin Gulag.

International Affairs

Reportage Continues on Yeltsin's Foreign Tour

U.S., Canadian Trip Reviewed

PM0502140992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
4 Feb 92 Morning Edition pp 1,4

[Article by Vasiliy Kononenko "Reportage From Our Special Correspondent Accompanying the Russian President": "How Yeltsin Won the West's Support"]

[Text] From London—The first stop in his three-day lightning tour of Western countries—Russian President B. Yeltsin arrived in New York in good humor. The day before he had received assurances from British Prime Minister J. Major that the latter fully supports his disarmament initiatives and is prepared to assist with economic reforms in Russia, including allocating resources to the stabilization fund to strengthen the ruble. Now Yeltsin was faced with a very difficult task—winning America's trust.

The president was already aware of the Americans' sentiments. Analytical reviews by the information service had testified to the fact that a huge transformation had occurred in the past few months in the U.S. public's awareness. Yeltsin was no longer being seen as an unpredictable radical, and his image as a politician capable of returning Russia to the club of the world's civilized countries, having prevented a Yugoslav scenario following the disintegration of the USSR, has been increasingly consolidated. But the president also knew of the unexpectedly powerful campaign mounted by the U.S. "mass media" in connection with his recent "disappearance" to Novorossiysk. Then the same newspapers got to the bottom of it—Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov had come to the president and informed him of the alarming situation on the ships of the Black Sea Fleet and suggested that he immediately meet with the fleet's command to prevent anything happening. However, the confusion that occurred in connection with the cancellation of the meeting with the Japanese foreign minister provided grounds for the claim that "Yeltsin remains an unpredictable politician...."

New York—Russian President Proved To Be a Good Pupil in Big-Time Politics

At New York's J.F. Kennedy Airport, during a brief address to journalists at the foot of the airplane steps—the same airplane that Gorbachev used, but now repainted and with a Russian flag and the inscription "Russia"—Yeltsin played his first trump card and forced the huge army of journalists accredited at the United Nations to work according to his scenario. He stated that at the summit-level UN Security Council session he would set forth a plan on how to achieve collective security. Of course, the following day his address was expected to be sensational. And indeed, against the backdrop of the general rather boring discourses and streamlined formulas of the other participants in the session, his speech appeared bold and cogent. After Yeltsin's speech, G. Bush rubbed his cheek and was forced to make positive noises about the proposals set forth, thus somehow establishing that ensuing discussions would be meaningful.

Furthermore, when the marathon of news conferences with the participants in the UN Security Council session began, Yeltsin gathered a huge audience thanks to the sensational announcement he made during his short meetings with UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali and the French, Chinese, Indian, and Japanese leaders that all tactical nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from the territory of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] to Russia, while the strategic missiles in Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan have been removed from alert status. At the same time the proposals he put forward in the disarmament sphere have been coordinated with his CIS partners, and he has the mandate to hold talks in this sphere on behalf of the Commonwealth states, as P. Voshchanov, his press secretary, said.

In a word, Yeltsin was able to make maximum use of both the UN rostrum and the massive contingent of journalists who had gathered in New York from all parts of the world to popularize his proposals with the aim of reducing military expenditure without damaging Russia's security, and also to attract sympathy to his side. A noteworthy detail: The president gave a convincing performance at the news conference, concluding it, as if formulating the philosophical denominator of his policy, by aptly citing F. Roosevelt on the degrees of freedom, thus winning applause from the journalists. One of his American colleagues noted in the lobby that "Yeltsin has proved to be quite a good pupil in the subtle art of big-time politics."

Camp David—Cowboy Boots for My Friend Boris

It took journalists a very long time to get to the famous American presidential residence located on a wooded plateau not far from Washington. Local experts in the U.S. corridors of power assert that the exact location of Camp David is kept secret. A Marines battalion used to be stationed somewhere in the small settlement. Later the cottages were reequipped and well decorated with valuable materials inside, and now they astonish visitors with their elegance. As for the fact that the approaches to it are constantly under reinforced guard—we found that out for ourselves.

The police posted about in the woods at all approaches to the residence were captious and deaf to our most well-reasoned pleas to be allowed just a glimpse of this place, which is not marked on the map and does not have any road signs in its maze of access roads. They operated in exact accordance with a predetermined scenario: they gathered the journalists in a kind of hangar, searched everyone carefully for any illicit objects, drove them away in a special bus to a helicopter landing area, cordoned them off on all sides, and forced them to wait in the strong wind and frost for the arrival of the helicopters bringing the U.S. and Russian presidents and the small group of officials accompanying them. Well-built guys in the uniform of the U.S. Marines with shaven necks kept a vigilant eye on every move made by the reporters, who were trying in this "trap" to find anything of any interest at all to provide newspaper or television copy.

Two military helicopters, raising huge clouds of white dust, finally flopped down onto the small asphalted landing pad, and out clambered Bush and Yeltsin, wearing casual jackets. After them, the presidents' wives and their entourage appeared. Some brief phrases were spoken to journalists along the lines of "everything is fine" and "everything is okay." Bush got in behind the wheel of one of the dozen small electrically powered vehicles. Yeltsin sat next to him. The photojournalists were greeted and then the cavalcade of cars disappeared into the woods, where all the journalists without exception are forbidden to go. We were taken back to the hangar and promised that the presidents may appear for several minutes after the talks. But, as we know, there are no absolute secrets today. Thanks to the amenability of one of the officials who was present at the talks, certain details of the meeting in Camp David could be gleaned later.

Yeltsin tried to get a clear answer from Bush about his declaration that the United States is not a likely adversary of Russia and that the two peoples should be allies. So it is not necessary for each of them to make their own SDI-type space defense system but should pool efforts on the financial, technical, and technological levels and create a global defense system which could be used jointly. Bush seemed to steer away from giving a direct answer, and said something along the lines of we must accommodate one another, we must work on the idea of creating a nuclear research center where unemployed nuclear specialists from Russia could start working. He also put forward the initiative that the United States could coordinate foreign support for the reforms in Russia, and promised to increase, as of February, the food aid and deliveries being made on the credits allocated for this purpose. Since the day of the meeting coincided with Yeltsin's birthday, Bush gave him some cowboy boots with his initials on the top of each one and also called Yeltsin "my friend Boris" at the dinner...

Ottawa—Academician Ye. Velikhov Disappeared, But Then Returned

In Canada, the highest honors were heaped on the Russian president—by no means a matter of course for all foreign heads of state. The special attention paid to the Russian delegation and the warm reception on the part of Prime Minister B. Mulroney undoubtedly reflect the priority and friendliness accorded Russia in his policy. But those present at these events got the impression that all these honors had some kind of hidden purpose whose significance is as yet unknown.

Yeltsin's talks with Mulroney went on for some time. It was not until evening that both countries' leaders and delegations arrived in parliament for a news conference (an extremely rare element in Canadian protocol), where the journalists, weary of waiting, were finally able to ask a few questions. It became clear that the initiative for the Russian president's visit came from the Canadian prime minister. A protocol was signed on supplies of 25 million tonnes of Canadian grain to Russia over a period of five years. Canada is allocating Russia over $2 billion in credits and is granting it most-favored-nation status in trade.

While the president and prime minister were answering questions, it was amusing to watch the members of the Russian delegation. Three whole days of intense work had left their mark: A. Kozyrev, Ye. Gaydar, and staff from the president's administration fought a losing battle against sleep before the television cameras. The tension was only eased when someone reported that Academician Ye. Velikhov had gotten lost on the way to the parliament. He did subsequently turn up, but a joke was made that he had decided to take up Yeltsin's initiative on the employment of nuclear scientists abroad.

The Russian president summed up the results of the lightning tour to the West on his return to Vnukovo-2. From what he said the visit was very productive. You will agree with this if you bear in mind that his main tasks were to make the world community aware of him as the leader of a major independent power, and to obtain a change for the better in the wait-and-see stance of the developed countries on the question of assisting the Russian reforms. Nevertheless, it is impossible to make categorical assessments in this respect.

First of all, the president himself said in Ottawa that the situation in Russia is such that people's patience is virtually exhausted. And meanwhile, he said, certain countries (he had in mind Japan first and foremost, and then the G-7 countries) have for many years been declaraing their intention to support the reforms but are not taking any real steps. If the reforms are frustrated, totalitarianism will return to Russia, and the whole world will again be drawn into confrontation and a costly arms race. Hence the conclusion that the president did not receive any clear guarantees during the visit in terms of support for Russia's transition to the market.

Second, Bush was very cautious in his approach to sharp cuts in the armed forces and the creation of a single system of protection against nuclear weapons. Apropos of this, observers in the United States have noted that the U.S. Administration is true to its previous policy—the United States should continue to play the role of superpower and does not intend to share with anyone its influence on the situation in the world.

Third, Western countries will most likely help in the recycling of nuclear weapons [zaryady] in the CIS states (Yeltsin announced that Great Britain, the United

States, France, and Japan are prepared to do this) in order to safeguard themselves against possible surprises in the East. However, they will scarcely succeed in turning the interests of their business communities to Russia in the immediate future. Private capital is not controlled by politicians, and therefore Yeltsin must not forget Gorbachev's fiasco: Long-term success in foreign affairs is only possible when coordinated with successes in domestic policy.

Yeltsin Begins Visit to France

PM0702143592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Feb 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Correspondent Yuriy Kovalenko report: "Boris Yeltsin Signs Treaty with France"]

[Text] Paris—The first hour-long conversation between the presidents took place one hour after President Boris Yeltsin landed at Orly Airport, where he was welcomed on the runway by Francois Mitterrand.

"The meeting was interesting, as were our talks," Boris Yeltsin answered in response to your correspondent's question immediately after they ended. "They touched on a wide range of questions—nuclear disarmament and France's participation in the process of eliminating those weapons. We also talked about the state of affairs in the Commonwealth of Independent States, its Armed Forces, our reform, and support for it on the part of France. We reached an accord.

"We expect specific results from this visit," the Russian president went on to tell me. "First, we are counting on France's understanding of our position on the problems of nuclear arsenals and hope for an appropriate response. Second, we hope that France will play an active part in the economic reform and will extend financial support to us, particularly in respect of food supplies."

In addition to the range of problems connected with nuclear weapons and security, the Russian delegation, which includes Yegor Gaydar (a large group of representatives of our business world has also come to Paris), intends to pay special attention to economic issues.

Fifteen agreements concerning various spheres of cooperation will be signed in Paris. The main document is the Treaty between France and Russia. (This title, it is being stressed in Paris, was proposed by Boris Yeltsin himself, who wished to avoid hackneyed, meaningless words about "friendship" and "cooperation"). They all will, among other things, enable a legal basis to be created for the development of bilateral ties.

Moreover, it is intended to set up a working party on questions of nuclear security. Finally, the treaty on cultural and scientific cooperation will allow France, if LE MONDE is to be believed, to "give shelter" to scientists engaged in the nuclear weapons program. L'ECHO, the newspaper of French business circles, points out that Yeltsin could raise with Paris the question of "head-hunting" on Russian soil. "Russia's fantastic scientific potential" is in danger, the newspaper stresses. It reports that Francois Kourilsky, general director of the French National Scientific Research Center, is seeking permission from the authorities to recruit the best foreign scientists through long-term contracts.

Boris Yeltsin, the press reports, intends to ask France for economic and financial support. According to Channel Five, Russia will ask during the talks for the unblocking of credits allocated by France last year for the acquisition of food in exchange for supplies of oil. The government, it seems, is ready to guarantee these credits almost in full, but the banks are demanding 100-percent guarantees. Moreover, private capital would first like to wait for the implementation of privatization in Russia which takes account of the interests of foreign investments.

On the whole French commentators are skeptical in their assessment of Russia's chances of obtaining substantial aid from France in present conditions. Credits are now increasingly granted on market terms, while assistance free of charge is paltry. Nevertheless, the French are not missing the opportunity to recall the former Union's indebtedness. Experts estimate it at 60 billion francs (two thirds of it owed to private banks). Despite this, Eli de Purtales [name as translitered], representative of the Lazard Bank, who is adviser to the Russian Government on the problem of debt, remains optimistic. "We go from disaster to disaster," he said, "until ultimate victory is ours."

Oil is Yeltsin's trump card, LE FIGARO writes. We are playing it with varying success to obtain what we most need, including food. During the visit a major agreement will be signed with Elf-Aquitaine to carry out exploration for and extraction of "black gold" in two regions—Saratov-Volgograd and Aktyubinsk—over an area of 20,000 square kilometers each. This will require investments from the French running into hundreds of millions of dollars.

Cooperation between the two countries is gradually spreading to new spheres. Some 18 months back two investigators of ours arrived in France for the first time to investigate a sensational criminal case. Today this cooperation between our law enforcement agencies is receiving a juridical foundation. A protocol on cooperation between the Russian and French Internal Affairs Ministries was signed 6 February. It envisages a joint struggle against organized crime, terrorism, the drugs trade, smuggling, and breaches of public order. Moreover, the two Internal Affairs Ministries intend to work together on immigration questions.

...The certain wariness shown until quite recently toward Boris Yeltsin by the French is now, it seems to me, being replaced by a desire to get to know the Russian president better. In the runup to his visit to France many publications devoted articles to Yeltsin—as politician and man. However, the interview which our president gave the country's leading television channel, TF-1, a few hours before his arrival in Paris was the most interesting for millions of French people, in my view. I will quote a few excerpts from it, partially translated back from the French, which sometimes drowned out Yeltsin's voice. I consider that Boris Nikolayevich's statements are also of interest to us.

The first question was about the kind of person the Russian president is.

He himself regards his professionalism and pretty strong character to be his positive qualities. However, he is a democratic person in relation to people. He is very hardworking. He is precise in his work. He loves an honest policy—both at international and domestic level. Boris Yeltsin loves his family, his two daughters, and his two granddaughters and his grandson. On the negative side, he is sometimes prone to moodiness, particularly when the going gets tough. He sleeps very little—3-4 hours a day.

Yeltsin acknowledged the existence of a small element of risk regarding the danger of a new authoritarian regime in Russia. That is possible if the reform misfires. Conservative forces are breathing down his neck... They are not so numerous, but, united, they do represent a certain force, one which is only waiting for reform to fail.

Our reform is not just the business of Russia, the president went on, but of the whole world community, including France. When I arrive in your country today, I am not going to ask for aid, of course, but I am going to endeavor to convince everyone of the need to support these reforms in order to prevent their failure.

The most difficult months for the people will be February, March, and April... I am not saying that there will be starvation, but the situation will be tough, we do not have enough food.

"How long will the Russians be able to put up with inflation running at hundreds of percentage points per month and empty stores," journalists asked.

"If the world community, and France in particular—this is a world problem—give us assistance, we will be able to hold out. I consider that our people, although they have been obliged to tighten their belts, do nevertheless support the president's reforms."

Answering a question about his health, Yeltsin stated:

"I have never had problems with my heart. And I am ready, as is done in the West, to publish the medical findings on my state of health... I play tennis twice a week, take a cold shower each morning, and feel very well."

Touching on the question of nuclear weapons control on the territory of the former USSR, Boris Yeltsin stressed: There was one nuclear button, and there remains one button. It is in the president's hands. No one person can command the nuclear strategic weapons any more, that is technically impossible. An understanding has been reached on this by the four heads of the sovereign nuclear states, who have signed an agreement. Yeltsin has one button, and Marshal Shaposhnikov has the other. Before, God forbid, nuclear weapons are used, the four heads of state must consult by telephone and reach agreement.

On whom, then, are your missiles targetted if, as you recently stated, they are no longer aimed at the United States, journalists enquired.

The joint Russian-U.S. declaration signed at Camp David records that we are allies, not adversaries, Boris Yeltsin reminded them. Weapons are not directed at allies. Where, then, are they aimed? Potentially against various adventurists, terrorists, and irresponsible politicians in various countries which could launch a war or engage in blackmail with their nuclear warheads. For such deterrence, a minimum number of nuclear weapons needs to be maintained.

Finally, the traditional question about the former USSR president. I have helped Mikhail Gorbachev set up his foundation, said Boris Yeltsin, and have granted him substantial resources. For the first time since 1917, the head of state has been replaced in our country in a civilized way. He has promised me not to engage in politics, and I believe him... I think that he has no political future, political future, I would stress.

Yeltsin, Mitterrand Review Talks

LD0702140292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to France ends today. People who have met him in the past few days in Versailles and Paris stress that the Russian president is in fine form despite the fact that the situation is very unsettled back home, where Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] is returning today.

Before leaving by air for Moscow, Boris Yeltsin held a news conference to sum up the results. It is still going on at this moment but, nonetheless, we have the opportunity to include quite a large fragment of this news conference:

[Begin Yeltsin video recording] Thank you. Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the program for my visit was really very densely packed. It has been intensive but very useful, and I and our delegation are very satisfied with the results of all the talks, first of all the talks between the presidents of France and Russia and also between our departments, between the ministers of foreign affairs, the leaders of the armed forces, the economic departments, and others.

Our talks touched on—as Mr. Mitterrand, president of France, noted—a broad range of issues. I will not repeat these. I will just add a few issues. They touched on the sale of nuclear weapons; the observation of our treaties that were signed by the former Soviet Union; and the assurances from our side that we will precisely fulfill, by the rights of succession, the international treaties signed by the former Union, particularly in the sphere of arms reductions, including conventional weapons in Europe in accordance with the talks on reducing armed forces in Europe. The proportion which falls to Russia in accordance with the reductions will be strictly observed here.

I am satisfied with the immediate response given by Mr. Mitterrand to those questions which we—I and our delegation—still had on the day of our arrival, the 5th. Today these questions have virtually all been dealt with. We are parting with total reciprocity and, at the same time, interest in developing our cooperation.

Of course, a new epoch, a new era is beginning in our mutual relations. It is a new era in which not only are we not opponents but we are not even potential opponents, and in which we are trying to become direct allies. This is very important. We are freeing ourselves from the fear that was felt by our peoples and, of course, by politicians. We now have complete trust in each other and, on this basis, of course, our cooperation will develop more boldly.

During my conversations with many French statesmen—apart from the president, there were conversations with French Prime Minister Mrs. Cresson, with Mr. Emanuelli, chairman of the National Assembly, with Mr. Poher, chairman of the French Senate, with Mr. Dumas, French Foreign Minister; there were meetings with French business circles—a broad range of our mutual interests was touched on, on bilateral relations, on solidarity in Europe, on Russia's entry into the European home on common and equal bases, and also on its entry into the world community, and on assistance for this from France, French leaders, from Mr. Mitterrand, the president of France, with whom during these conversations and contacts in France I developed very good personal relations and contacts. And believe me, I am very pleased at this, since France and Russia are of vast importance for all processes in Europe and in the rest of the world, too.

I am grateful for the precise organization and the ceremonial—very strictly protocol but at the same time respectful—gentleness and kindness shown by the president, the French leaders, and the Parisians. I am grateful to them for that. Thank you. [end recording]

That was just a fragment from the news conference given by Boris Yeltsin and Francois Mitterrand since the news conference, as I have already said, is still going on now. During his stay in Paris, Boris Yeltsin spoke absolutely frankly about the extremely complicated situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States. If we do not manage to stabilize the situation, the country might once again become the victim of dictatorship. Observers note that the Russian president has never before outside his own country spoken such alarming words and made such gloomy forecasts.

'Fully Trust Each Other'

LD0702190292 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Sergey Batyrev, Aleksandr Krivykh, Yuriy Sizov, Viktor Khrekov, and Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris February 7 TASS—A new page has been turned in the century old history of relations between France and Russia, the French president, Francois Mitterrand, said in his opening address at the news conference in the Elysee Palace today.

Speaking about the results of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's three-day visit to France, Mitterrand stressed that this period of time marks a logical conclusion of changes which began a few years ago and culminated in the termination of the "cold war".

These changes became possible, according to Mitterrand, thanks to efforts first by Mikhail Gorbachev and then reforms by Boris Yeltsin.

The French president praised the courage and determination displayed by the Russian president in defending and strengthening democracy in Russia.

Thanks to all these changes, new rapprochement is now in evidence between the two countries, Mitterrand said. France and Russia are now talking as two European states, "We are no longer adversaries, including in the military field".

France is ready to help restore Russia's economy. The new character of relations between the two countries is clearly seen in the Franco-Russian treaty signed by the heads of state and a series of intergovernmental agreements concluded during the visit.

The visit was extremely intense and at the same time very useful, Boris Yeltsin said in his address. Relations between great powers, such as France and Russia, are of great importance for the whole world.

We are quite satisfied with the results of the talks, Yeltsin said. We discussed the widest range of issues, including nuclear disarmament and military security. "We said Russia will strictly abide by all treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms control, signed by the former USSR," Yeltsin stressed.

The Russian president shared Mitterrand's evaluation of bilateral relations and pointed out that a new era was beginning in relations between Russia and France with both countries striving to become close allies.

"We are getting rid of the fear which dominated our nations and politicians for many years. Today we fully trust each other", Boris Yeltsin stressed.

"We spoke with the president of France about Russia's return to the European house, to the world community and discussed ways in which France can assist the process," the Russian president said.

After that, the presidents of France and Russia responded to numerous questions from journalists.

"The first meeting between Russia and France lays the foundation for new bilateral relations", Francois Mitterrand said in reply to a question about the distinguishing characteristics of the visit.

"Of course, we proceed from the past agreements signed with the Soviet Union. There is no question of disrupting history. Nevertheless, today's Russia is a sovereign state and to us here in France, there is no difficulty in picking up the old traditions," the French president explained.

Mitterrand noted that the two countries have been allies almost all of the time and conflicts between them occurred very seldom in the past. Of course, they left traces, Mitterrand added. This refers above all to the time of the first French empire of Napoleon. Despite this, accord has been a lasting feature in our relations.

At the beginning of this century, a Franco-Russian treaty was signed in France and since then, no matter what political regime existed in the two countries, friendly relations have remained immutable. It can be said with confidence that "Russia and France are declaring their friendship".

Boris Yeltsin stressed that the document signed in Paris today was the first treaty between free democratic Russia and France in this century. Moreover, it is a comprehensive treaty embracing all spheres of bilateral relations, which is of special importance.

Asked about economic aid, the Russian president said, "When the Russian delegation was preparing to travel to France, it had certain questions for the French. However, on instructions from the French president, these questions were promptly cleared".

"Today we can firmly say that in addition to the credit lines which existed earlier and were effective, two additional credit lines were granted to us during the visit—one of two billion francs to buy grain and the other of 1.5 billion francs to pay for food, consumer goods and equipment." Besides, a "food for raw materials" barter deal worth 2,300 million francs was confirmed. "This is a substantial support for our economic reforms in Russia", Boris Yeltsin stressed.

Asked about problems connected with nuclear cuts on the territory of the former USSR, the French president said that France was ready to extend assistance to Russia in this field. At present, relevant agreements are being drawn up, and French specialists will be able to take part in accomplishing this difficult task.

He noted that the latest statements of the presidents of the United States and Russia on nuclear arms cuts promised a considerable expansion of the process. "We agree with this and are ready to join your movement along the road of reductions", Francois Mitterrand said.

At the same time, the French president reiterated his earlier viewpoint, in accordance with which France will begin to cut its nuclear arsenals only after the United States and the Commonwealth of Independent States cut their nuclear potentials most dramatically.

The Russian president said he was viewing the French position with understanding and respect, because today the nuclear arsenals of the two countries cannot be compared. He indicated that he intended to bring the number of nuclear warheads on the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent Nations down from 12,500 to 2,500. This is the minimal level of sufficiency needed for deterrence and rebuff to surprise, unsanctioned nuclear strikes.

Yeltsin said the military doctrine of the Commonwealth and Russia is undergoing changes and added that flight assignments for strategic missiles would also be changed. They will be targeted neither at cities in France nor cities in other countries," the Russian president said.

Asked about Mikhail Gorbachev's promise to Yeltsin to refrain from political activity, the head of the Russian state said that for the first time since 1917 a leader of the country left his post with due honours. "We respect the role which Gorbachev played in the history of the former Soviet Union, especially during the first years of his activity", Yeltsin said.

"During our last meeting, when we were discussing many problems together, I voiced concern over the presence of certain forces in Russia—the so-called reds-and-browns—who wanted to disrupt our reforms," Yeltsin confided. Mikhail Gorbachev said in response that personally he will not take part in any political games or political struggle. "I believe him in this respect," Yeltsin stressed.

Responding to a question about the situation of Germans in Russia, Yeltsin said that "the Russian leadership has not changed its viewpoint on this problem". The same was confirmed during his visit to Germany. "We are ready to implement step by step our programme of building a German autonomy in the Volga region. I had said earlier that it would be impossible to do so in places where the local population resides in compact communities. We have to look for unoccupied territories. And we are ready to look for such places together with the German union in Russia." Along with this, the president rejected allegations about massive emigration of ethnic Germans from Russia.

Speaking about relations with the leaders of the Commonwealth member countries, Yeltsin said that he had "very good, amiable relations with all the heads of these states".

"We are maintaining both personal and business contacts and are constantly negotiating. Of course, the Commonwealth is only two months old and little has yet been done to strengthen it. But we make a step forward at every meeting we hold", Yeltsin said.

As regards relations with Ukraine, the Russian president said "they are somewhat uncommon but this is Ukraine's position and we must view it with respect". The Russian president recalled the 1,000-year old history of these relations and stressed that the leaders of the two countries would eventually "find a common language".

Commenting on the Russian leadership's attitude to Third World countries and the peaceful settlement in the Middle East, Yeltsin indicated that the new, free and democratic Russia has had little time to establish close contacts with the leaders of those states. But this does not imply any prejudice against them, against the will of their peoples to build their lives as they see fit. He reiterated Russia's intention and readiness to develop contacts with Third World countries.

Asked in what way the new stage in relations between Russia and France can affect relations between these countries and other states in Europe, Francois Mitterrand said: "Our relations with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland are clearly defined. There is no reason for the dialogue between France and Russia to hurt our relations with Poland".

Yeltsin added that the treaty between Russia and France signed in Paris today contains a special article, saying that this treaty will by no means affect relations with other countries. The president regretted that "last year, when the Soviet Union tumbled as an empire and Russia had not yet acquired its statehood, contacts and relations based on treaties with East European countries abruptly decreased".

"We are now rectifying this situation at a great pace: We have signed treaties with Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, similar agreements have been drawn up with Poland, Romania and Hungary. We want to restore full-blooded relations with these countries," Boris Yeltsin said.

'First Treaty' Signed

LD0702200692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1635 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Report on news conference by Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and French President Francois Mitterrand with unidentified correspondents in Paris on 7 February]

[Text] [Announcer] Both presidents answered a question on whether Russia and France maintain special relations. They noted that this is not a matter of special relations but of qualitively new ones involving a principally new partner, namely an independent Russia. Answering a question on what threat Russia's nuclear weapons may present Boris Yeltsin said:

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] We are amending our military doctrine accordingly, and will amend the flight coordinates of our remaining strategic nuclear missiles so they are not targeted at the former potential enemies of the former Union and Russia. They will be assigned to any kind of unsanctioned or deliberate moves or flights involving nuclear weapons directed against us. They will not be targeted at cities in France or at cities in other states.

[Correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, you said in a French TV interview—if I understand correctly; the interview was shown with translation—that Gorbachev promised you that he will no longer engage in politics and that you believe him. I would like to ask: Was the promise...[changes thought] Did you lay down any conditions? In general, was there a reason for it? Did you make any request in this respect?

[Yeltsin] The fact is that a leader of our country has departed with due honor for the first time since 1917, and we respect the role that Gorbachev played in our former Union's history, especially during the initial years of his work. All of his questions about his well-being after resigning from the Presidency have been resolved. We discussed a number of problems during our last meeting. I voiced my concern that there are certain forces in Russia—the so-called reds and browns—who want to break off our reforms. He, on his own initiative, responded by saying that I should not worry, that he will not be playing any political games, so to speak, or be active in any political campaign. I believe him.

[Correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, my question is to you: You appeal to the Russian patriotism [russko-rossiyskiy] concept with increasing frequency during this visit, especially at your meeting with the Russian emigre community yesterday. The reds and browns that you mentioned are breathing down your neck in our country and are appealing to the same concept. What does this idea—Russian patriotism—mean to you? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I am prepared to support the French president and to consider this our internal question. Please ask me in Moscow. [end recording]

[Announcer] Answering a question on mutual relations between Russia and other CIS members, Boris Yeltsin said:

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] I must say that we have very good, amicable relations with all the CIS states' leaders. We maintain both personal and business contacts, and we hold talks constantly. The CIS is only two months old, so little has yet been done to strengthen the Commonwealth. However, we take the needed steps forward with every monthly meeting we hold—there was one in Moscow on 16 January, and there will be another in Minsk on 14 February. Relations with Ukraine are more unusual, perhaps, but this is Ukraine's position. We must treat its position with respect. We must build these relations upon our friendly wave, so to speak. I am confident that we will reach any necessary agreements on all issues. Let us face it, we will not fight with Ukraine! This is not only impermissible but also absolutely unrealistic since our peoples have a common history that stretches back over 1,000 years. We will find a common language, do not worry. [end recording]

[Announcer] Answering a question on how the current visit can promote reforms already under way in Russia, President Yeltsin said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Russia and France had a treaty only in the last century. Thus, this is the first treaty between a free, democratic Russia and France this century, and it is a full-scale treaty involving all the spheres of our bilateral relations. This is especially important.

Answering your second question, on economic matters: Yes, we had certain questions as we departed, but they were answered so promptly on President Mitterand's instructions that we can already state today that apart from those credit lines which were in place and operating, literally some days ago two additional credit lines were opened: one for grain worth 2 billion francs and one for food, consumer goods, and equipment worth 1.5 billion francs. Apart from this, a barter deal worth 2.3 billion francs worth of food and raw materials has been confirmed. This is very important support for our economic reforms in Russia, for which I am grateful to President Mitterand. [end recording]

Yeltsin Versailles Speech

PM0702150192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 First Edition pp 1,3

[Unattributed report: "Boris Yeltsin's Speech at Versailles Reception"]

[Text] A banquet was held 5 February in the Grand Trianon Palace at Versailles, which is Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's official residence during his official state visit. The banquet was hosted by French President Francois Mitterrand and his wife in honor of the important Russian guest and his wife. It was attended by eminent French statesmen, politicians, and public figures, and by members of the official delegation accompanying the Russian president.

Speaking at the banquet, Boris Yeltsin said:

Esteemed Mr. President!

Esteemed Mrs. Mitterrand!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I think you will agree with me that the last few days have been filled with special content. For the first time in decades our peoples, who had been divided by ideological myths and political doctrines, have not only rejected the stereotypes of confrontation but have started the very difficult work to remake the world on a genuinely humane basis.

The exhausting confrontation has come to an end. It benefited no one and brought no people happiness.

Even states which have managed to maintain their economic health and ensure a high living standard for their citizens did not lose their sense of fear and uncertainty about the future throughout these years.

Something irreparable could have happened every day. But throughout this period people hoped that this state of affairs in the world would not be maintained indefinitely. It was contrary not only to human nature but to mankind.

Repeated attempts were made to change relations between the peoples; by no means all of them led to a positive result.

But each of them was valuable in itself.

They will remain in the human memory, as will the tragedies which the world community has experienced.

In the 20th century, the forces of evil had a chance to deploy their might. The result was extremely clear—they are capable of everything except creation.

We are now all aware that the era of confrontation and the dictatorship of force should be a thing of the past.

This opinion was expressed clearly and unambiguously by the leaders of the 15 states at the UN Security Council session.

I believe that our visit to France and talks with President Mitterrand will make it possible to define specific ways of realizing this goal.

The shaping of a new world order is seen above all in interstate relations. Russia and France could do a considerable amount in this area.

Our relations are rooted in the distant past. And, to the credit of our forebears, it must be said that they have mainly been friendly.

I am fond of the statement by the famous French scholar Paul Langevin, who said: "We need this country as much as it needs us."

I think that this is as true for Russia as it is for France.

Our states have always been worthy partners and have amassed sufficient experience of cooperation.

Life demands a considerable renewal of the Russo-French dialogue. Full continuity presupposes a desire for new actions and a new quality of cooperation.

A treaty between Russia and France will be signed during our visit. It contains the legal basis for a qualitatively new stage in the most varied spheres of relations between our states for many years to come.

It is particularly important for us that the tried-and-tested French democracy and the young Russian democracy ceremonially reaffirm their adherence to the ideals of people's power and the principles of freedom, justice, and solidarity.

The declaration of the rights and freedoms of the individual and the citizen adopted in November 1991 by the Russian Supreme Soviet is profoundly consonant with the Great French Revolution's declaration of the rights of the individual and the citizen. Its first article states: "The rights and freedoms of the individual belong to him from birth." The defense of democratic freedoms and institutions is today becoming one of the main areas of our cooperation.

Fundamental reforms aimed at stabilizing the economy and its transition to market relations are being carried out in Russia. They are not having an easy time, since an antimarket mentality, a mentality of universal dependence, has taken shape over the decades. But we are firmly embarked upon the path of radical transformations and will not swerve from it. Russia was one of the basic initiators of the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. The Soviet Union no longer exists, but its problems do persist. We are realists and are well aware that problems built up over many years cannot be resolved immediately. The formation of the Commonwealth is a process which requires that the interests of all its member states, geopolitical factors, and the situation in Europe and the world be taken into account.

The reliable assurance of unified control over nuclear arms is a matter subject to special attention by us during this extremely crucial transitional period. Everything is being done in this sensitive sphere to ensure that any unsanctioned use of nuclear weapons is completely ruled out, their proliferation prevented, and substantial cuts in them achieved.

There is no doubt that the talks in Paris will have a practical impact upon cooperation in the economic, industrial, scientific, technical, cultural, and other spheres.

I have sensed that it is understood in France that stability in Europe, and indeed in the world as a whole, will depend to a considerable extent on the success of the profound transformations, first and foremost in the economic sphere, being carried out in Russia and the other CIS states.

I highly value France's assistance to the Russian economy. There is an accord in principle to switch to Russia the bulk of French credits previously issued to the USSR.

It is intended to develop cooperation between the two countries' state, mixed, cooperative, and private associations and enetrprises. France's support for Russia's membership of international economic and financial organizations, particularly the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and France's positive role in cooperation among G-7 countries are of great importance to us.

A tangible step forward is being taken in Russian-French cooperation in the social sphere, in training cadres, utilizing French experience in forming market infrastructures, and tackling problems of employment and social security.

We are ready to examine proposals designed to resolve outstanding problems in this sphere.

The well-known French writer Jean de la Bruyere observed that "Generosity consists not so much in giving a great deal as giving at the right time."

We are grateful to the citizens of France for the humanitarian aid being given Russians at this difficult time for us.

A few words about our collaboration in Europe.

Russia is open to partnership with all organizations which make a contribution to the security and unity of the continent. We know that that is France's position too.

The treaty which we will sign, Mr. President, eloquently bears this out. In particular, we jointly advance the idea of concluding an all-European agreement in the sphere of security, and we call on all our partners to make a substantial contribution to its elaboration. Agreement and concord in European and international affairs are one of the most important elements in establishing principles of freedom and peace on our planet." [quotation marks as received]

The Russian president proposed a toast to the prosperity of France and its people, the all-around development of Russian-French relations, and the health of the president, his wife, and all those present.

Yeltsin Comments on Ukrainian Issue

LD0702192792 Moscow TASS in English 1849 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennady Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin told journalists on his arrival from Paris today that he is satisfied with the results of his visit to France. The results of the visit are "helpful now for the support of our reforms", he said.

The head of the Russian state stressed the fact that, for the first time, a large-scale treaty had been signed between Russia and France. He also noted the high level of the reception of the Russian delegation.

Journalists put many questions beyond the framework of the visit, specifically about the relations between Russia and Ukraine. Russia does not claim to change the borders with Ukraine, Yeltsin stressed. He added that after the meeting in Minsk he would like to ask the Ukrainian president to stay a bit longer "so that if there are some unclear issues we could settle them".

The Russian president said he does not plan any trips abroad before mid-year. "I will concentrate fully on the domestic affairs", he pointed out.

Yeltsin To Focus on Internal Affairs

LD0802002292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent V. Kukushkin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin arrived back in Moscow from Paris this evening. At the airport, he spoke to our correspondent. [video shows Yeltsin at foot of aircraft steps, surrounded by newsmen; Yeltsin moving away from aircraft, accompanied by Kozyrev, Khasbulatov, and a crowd of officials]

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The talks and conversations were interesting. After all, since last century there has not been... [changes thought] There has not been a treaty between Russia and France this century. The fact that a full-scale treaty has been signed, covering the whole spectrum of our bilateral relations, is very important. We have come together for the first time on nuclear weapons issues, to join together in the process of global disarmament, of the reduction and destruction of these weapons. On economic matters, in addition to existing arrangements, we opened up several lines of credit through nine documents that were signed at the conclusion of the visit. [end recording]

Boris Yeltsin also noted in his remarks that following the meeting of Commonwealth of Independent States' presidents he intends to suggest to Leonid Kravchuk that they hold bilateral talks on relations between their republics, especially with regard to the Army and the Navy. Summing up his series of visits, the Russian Federation president stressed:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] What is needed now is to give a concrete push to all the actions, particularly the economic ones, of the G-7 states. I will not be making any further trips now until the middle of the year. I will be concentrating wholly on our internal affairs, on domestic problems and issues, and will not be going anywhere. [end recording]

Shaposhnikov Views French Military Cooperation

LD0802114192 Moscow TASS in English 1051 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris February 8 ITAR-TASS—Control over the strategic nuclear weapons of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is in the hands of the president of Russia, Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Armed Forces, said in an exclusive interview published in LE FIGARO today.

Touching upon tactical nuclear weapons, he said the problem is still in the discussion stage. "But it will not occur to anyone to place nuclear warheads into the hands of the highest bidders", he said.

In response to a question about the talks held in Paris, Shaposhnikov highly appreciated their results, emphasising that Russian-French military cooperation assumes increasingly varied forms, for example, the form of exchanges of cadets of military academies. The first such group is to arrive in France from Moscow in March, the minister said.

Shaposhnikov also favoured the idea of creating joint Armed Forces of the CIS to resolve inter-ethnic conflicts similar to the Karabakh one. At the same time, he criticised proposals to send U.N. peace-keepers to Nagorno-Karabakh because "we ourselves can find a solution to the conflict".

The minister somewhat specified the question of the dismantling of Russia's nuclear missiles together with France, stating that "we have gained our own wide experience in this field, since the Russian military have already dismantled a large number of missiles phased out of service in East European countries and in the Baltics". At the same time, the marshal pointed out that French assistance would be desirable in the utilisation of plutonium taken from nuclear warheads.

Speaking about the forthcoming meeting of CIS leaders in Minsk on February 14 to discuss defence issues, Shaposhnikov stated in particular: "I am against the division of the Army (of the former Soviet Union—note by ITAR-TASS) but I cannot go against the will of independent states.

"If some states want to create armies of their own and they have laws enabling them to do that, I understand them. My position is as follows: it is necessary to make headway towards the creation of independent armies but not to do that under pressure.

"It is necessary to have a transitional period, during which the Armed Forces would remain under a single control while independent states would prepare the ground for the creation of their own armies," Shaposhnikov said.

Gaydar Sees Economic 'Light in the Tunnel'

LD0802190892 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris February 8 TASS—The main result of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's visit to France has been the resumption of agreements to extend huge credits to Moscow, which previously were allotted to the Soviet Union, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said in an interview with the newspaper LE FIGARO published today.

The three and a half billion francs set aside to Russia for the purchase of grain, meat and other food products and also in technical aid "is good news which came at the moment when we are going through the financial crisis that generates concern with the whole of the Western world," Gaydar said.

"The accords signed are not simply economic aid but are to a greater extent a political support lent by France to Boris Yeltsin. The French Government understands that once it suspends credits, it will deny the young Russian democracy its future," Gaydar pointed out.

"The economic reform already begins to bear fruit. Producers-monopolists of meat and milk are coming to the conclusion that customers' purchasing capabilities have their limits and in the bid to sell their commodity they are forced to push down prices. In the military-industrial complex, the drop in the number of military orders forces directors of enterprises to look for new markets. This is a manifestation of the changing mentality, although this change goes very slowly.

"In the expectation of financial stability, production may plunge to some extent. However, according to our estimates, in about two years there will appear the light in the tunnel," Gaydar said.

Gaydar, Aven on Credits, Oil Exploration

MK0702121092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 pp 1,2

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko: "Diplomatic Vanity Fair"]

[Excerpt] Paris—[passage omitted] The press still does not know the content of the Russian and French presidents' confidential talks yesterday and the day before. The official news conference is only scheduled for the last hour before departure, and the presidents themselves are still getting rid of reporters with just fragmented sentences "over the shoulder." Stenographic records of speeches given by Yeltsin and Mitterrand during the reception ceremony at the airport and during the ceremonial dinner in the Le Petit Trianon to all intents and purposes contain nothing but mutual assurances of the historic nature of the visit and the benefits of continuing the traditionally close Franco-Russian contacts, and Yeltsin's hints that the gloomy impressions of previous—abortive—trips to France have nonetheless not been blotted from his memory.

However, everything indicates that the shop window of the diplomatic vanity fair conceals really significant events. In a brief interview with a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent Russian Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar described the first round of his talks with Pierre Beregovoy, French minister of the economy and finance, as "exceptionally successful." He said that during the 90 minutes the sides succeeded in "ironing out all the disagreements that hitherto impeded the signing of agreements on two credits for the Russian Federation (one for grain procurements and one unrestricted [svobodnyy] credit) of $1.5 billion each. The preliminary agreement on these credits was secured "during the time of the Union," on extraordinarily favorable terms for the USSR, moreover. Russia's representatives were now able to uphold a success, the basis of which was laid by Mikhail Gorbachev's team. Admittedly, the total amount of the credits has dropped $1 billion, but it is not on the other hand a question of all the Commonwealth republics, but of Russia alone.

Petr Aven, head of the Russian foreign trade department, also takes an extremely optimistic view of the course of the Paris visit. His sphere of interests includes a contract, the drafting of which was completed in full, with France's largest oil company Elf Aquitaine: It relates to oil exploration and extraction in the Lower Volga regions, to all intents and purposes a concession involving major French investment. "This is an example of a contract that has been well-formulated and put into effect on a professional basis—unlike, say, the well-known Chevron contract," Petr Aven said of the agreement ready for signing. [passage omitted].

'External Conditions' for Reform Ensured

LD0902034792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1807 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Remarks by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to an unidentified correspondent on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to France; place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] For the first time in recent decades, Russia is appearing on the international arena as a normal, great power, which is great not because it threatens and frightens people. This is clearly what the red and brown shirts, the hurrah patriots, are trying to take us back to, for us to frighten the whole world again, and for our face to be hidden behind banners saying communism or socialism, while we ourselves are the laughing stock of the whole world, a superarmed beggar. This is the first time we were accepted as normal people, a normal, democratic Russia. Yes, we have great difficulties; yes, they are helping us but not in a humiliating way. They have helped everyone. Today, the situation is such that our president can ring up any of the leaders of the Western G-7, and there is confidence that he will receive a positive, normal reply. They will not ask: Who is that calling? What is he, this Yeltsin? What is this Russian leadership? What policies does it have? The external conditions for reform have now been ensured.

Kozyrev on Need 'To Win' G-7 To 'Our Side'

LD0802210292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by station correspondent Yevgeniy Osipovskiy; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kozyrev] In terms of our transition from the former Union to the new situation—the CIS, and independent [word indistinct] of Russia—in record time, not only have we lost nothing in the international arena...[changes thought] that is not a result just of the Paris visit, but of all previous visits as well. That was their whole point. We cannot allow ourselves to live in isolation with or without our problems. History has handed us a responsibility and has given us the place of a great superpower, which we fully have preserved. We have lost nothing, and a process of qualitatively building up Russia's links with the surrounding world is under way.

[Osipovskiy] Do you think that we have managed to achieve a breakthrough in economic cooperation, namely, in the important task of involving French capital in the Russian market?

[Kozyrev] This task has been resolved in many respects at a political level. Let us put it bluntly. Now there is a level of political trust and sympathy necessary for what you are talking about: for a breakthrough and involvement of French capital in the Russian market. However, this does not exhaust our economic tasks. Our current task is to carry out deep economic reform to enable our economy to accept these investments. That is where the problem lies. To achieve this, we need large-scale aid or, to be more exact, economic cooperation with more developed powers of the capitalist West. France, Germany, Japan needed them at one time; all the current leaders of the Western world had to go through this. The United States and perhaps Canada could give that support. This is why the economic implication of our strategy in foreign policy consists of the need to win the whole Group of Seven [G-7] over to our side, above all in political terms.

Delegation Presents Proposal to CSCE Talks

LD0702144992 Moscow TASS in English 1431 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna February 7 TASS—A delegation from the Russian Federation today submitted for consideration by participants in the unofficial consultations in Vienna its proposals for an entire range of problems relating to the forthcoming CSCE summit, Helsinki-2.

According to the Russian delegation, the forthcoming talks on disarmament, security and confidence building measures, open to all CSCE member countries, should be aimed to upgrade the level of confidence in military matters and further strengthen security and stability at lower levels of conventional arms as much as possible, which meets common and individual security needs.

The Russian package calls for including in negotiations the harmonization of obligations, agreed within the framework of negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe and talks on confidence and security building measures, the working out of understanding concerning measures restricting the ability to boost military potentials of the armed forces by supplying them with radically upgraded weapons, the working out of regional measures, including arms controls, and the development of new confidence building measures embracing all military activities of the member countries.

"Just as other countries, we are proceeding from the presumption that, parallel with the negotiations, a dialogue and cooperation will develop in the sphere of security on the basis of the consultative committee at the Conflict Prevention Centre," Russian delegation leader Vladimir Shustov told ITAR-TASS.

With changes under way in Europe, everyone will expect the forthcoming Helsinki summit to take practical steps adequate in their depth and scale to those of historic shifts taking place in Europe and the world, Shustov said.

Humanitarian Aid From Japan To Begin 8-10 Feb

LD0702143492 Moscow TASS in English 1202 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksey Lusin]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—The first shipment of humanitarian aid worth 320,000 U.S. dollars will arrive in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Vladivostok and Khabarovsk on February 8-10, Japanese Counselor Minister Amae Kishichiro told a news conference in Moscow. The total volume of aid from Japan will amount to 52 million U.S. dollars and will include foodstuffs and medicines and is meant for Far Eastern territories.

Amae Kishichiro told reporters the agreement on granting the Russian Federation a credit of 100 million U.S. dollars is in a stage of completion now. He also said Russian president's visit to Tokyo is scheduled for mid-September.

Germans Claim Russia Organizes Spy Network

LD0802002492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast—read by annoncer]

[Text] Representatives of German counterintelligence have asserted that the Russian security service is now organizing a new spy network in the FRG, using approximately 80 percent of former KGB agents.

Khasbulatov on Minorities' Rights Violations

OW0802162392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All republics of the former Soviet Union except Russia violate the rights of ethnic minorities, Ruslan Khasbulatov, spokesman of the Russian parliament told Saturday [8 February] to a delegation of the US Committee for Refugees headed by its chairman, Mr. Roger Winter.

Ruslan Khasbulatov made public his fears that "in a number of the former Union republics a regime more totalitarian and dictatorial than that of the former Soviet Union may be installed". Violations of the rights of the Russian minority in the Baltic states which have reneged on appropriate provisions of their bilateral treaties with Russia are of special concern, he said.

Mr. Winter said that independent experts of the US Committee for Refugees were willing to make available to Russia their "unique program which did not overlap with a similar program by the UN". The committee may press the US Government to consider respect for human rights as the major prerequisite for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the independent states of the former Soviet Union, he stressed.

He added that in his view, the interethnic conflict in the Dnestr region (an area in Moldova with a predominantly Russian-speaking population - IF [INTERFAX]) "May lead to a very serious war".

Deputy Minister Comments on Western Aid

PM0702122592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Zhitnikov, Russian deputy minister for the social protection of the population, by Sergey Taranov; place and date not given: "What To Do About Humanitarian Aid If There Is Not Enough for Everyone"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] By a decision of Russian President Boris Yeltsin a commission for humanitarian and technical aid received from abroad has been created under the republic's government. The commission, which is headed by Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, includes the leaders of all ministries and departments involved in the receipt, transportation, and distribution of humanitarian freight. Recently the commission's working apparatus—about 15 specialists who must have a knowledge of foreign languages—received its own office at No. 26 Kirovskiy Passage. All operational work connected with foreign aid has been headed by Aleksandr Zhitnikov, deputy minister for the social protection of the population.

[Taranov] Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, let us start the interview with the actual concept of "humanitarian aid." Does it have any strict semantic framework?

[Zhitnikov] In the international lexicon humanitarian aid is defined by the English word "grant," that is a gift, an official allocation, an allowance or subsidy—everything given free and gratis. The forms of humanitarian aid are not limited by anything.

Today great confusion has arisen in our mass awareness—often virtually everything reaching the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] from abroad is called humanitarian aid. If there is a train somewhere with rice bought for credits or if there is talk of wheat acquired with U.S. loans—for some reason this is regarded as humanitarian aid. Often there is utterly unjustified criticism of commercial firms trading in imported food and clothing which they buy with their own funds abroad or within the country, from wholesale suppliers. But that has nothing to do with humanitarian aid. We buy the absolute majority of foreign goods or take them with a debt to be paid in the near future. And the scale of import purchases cannot be compared with that of free shipments.

Last year Russia received 240,000 tonnes of free food and medical supplies as humanitarian aid. Of these 85 percent were for Moscow and St. Petersburg, that is the inhabitants of other cities did not even see the gifts from the West. This year we are counting on 1 million tonnes. At first glance the figure is impressive, four times last year's. But try to compare: In 1992 Russia alone is to purchase with Western loans and credits about 30 million tonnes of grain necessary to bake bread and feed livestock.

[Taranov] In that case perhaps it is not worth talking seriously of humanitarian aid at all and everything written about it in the newspapers and shown on television is no more than political ballyhoo?

[Zhitnikov] One must understand the philosophy of our "donors." Neither the United States nor Germany nor any other country, however wealthy, intends to maintain Russia. We must resolve our problems ourselves.

As the "donors" see it, humanitarian aid for Russia is primarily humanitarian for those MOST in need, the worst off, the orphaned—only those who cannot care for themselves under the conditions of the prices race, inflation, and the shortage of everything. In that sense humanitarian aid justifies itself. For a sick old man or a bedridden invalid a two-kilogram package of dried milk can be the only opportunity of acquiring milk in this difficult winter.

[Taranov] But tell me, how to determine the most needy people? Today two thirds of the Russian population could include itself in that unenviable category...

[Zhitnikov] A difficult task, especially if you assign everything from the center. But our commission does not do that. The recipients of aid must be sought by local organs of power, health, national education, and social security. They know unerringly which children's home, hospital, and people are now in the most desperate plight. So far we have compiled lists of regions and cities which should be rendered humanitarian aid on a priority basis and in which the food and medical supply situation is most vulnerable because of broken economic ties and the curtailment of production. I shall list them in full so that their inhabitants know whether or not they should count on foreign gifts. They are Moscow and St. Petersburg, Bryansk, Kaluga, Orel, Smolensk, Tula, Yaroslavl, Arkhangelsk, VOlogda, Pskov, Vladimir, Ivanov, Tver, Kostroma, Perm, Chelyabinsk, Chita, Irkutsk, Kemerovo, Yekaterinburg, Nizhniy Novgorod, Samara, and Moscow oblasts and also North Ossetia, Checheno-Ingushetia, Khakasia, freightya, Komi, Yakutia, and Karelia.

[Taranov] You speak of those "most in need." But how to understand the fact that in Moscow's schools foreign canned stewed meat and dried milk are being handed out to all children in turn—to those whose parents can hardly make ends meat and to those whose moms and pops buy French milk and pineapples in hard currency stores?

[Zhitnikov] Incidentally, my daughter also managed to bring imported canned goods home from school... Most likely there is some misunderstanding here, a relapse into our general "instinct" to level down (if we hand out something then it must be to everyone equally). But at the same time I allow that the idea of distributing food through the schools could have been dictated by the "donor" himself.

Some of our Western partners choose the recipients of their aid on the basis of stereotypes about Russia or some information they may happen to have read. In the process of talks we try to correct their wishes and prompt more correct ways. But we do not always succeed. For instance, some "donors" ask, indeed demand, that their freight be delivered to Russia by aircraft. Yes, that is effective, and when a 100-tonne Ruslan aircraft lands in London or Rome it is good publicity. But what is better and more useful—sending freight by sea or by railroad or by air, but paying 30 times more for delivery? Yet any saving on transport means many tonnes of additionally bought meat, children's food, and medicines.

It is the same with regard to the range of goods. We ask to be sent the simplest. What prompted one German organization to bestow 12 tonnes of chocolate on Moscow's Baumanskiy Rayon on the sole grounds that it is the former Lefortovo—a German settlement? Of course, we are also pleased to have chocolate and we sincerely thank all "donors." But I think our poor invalids and orphans could do without exotic confectionery for the time being and without "brand name" wardrobes, but an extra kilogram of meat or butter or a heart pill would do them no harm.

[Taranov] In your opinion how effective is humanitarian aid delivered without state intermediaries when, for instance, one charitable or commercial organization dispatches the freigh of another?

[Zhitnikov] We only welcome it, having no claims whatsoever to the role of a monopoly center. The actual movement to render humanitarian aid to the CIS countries began with the Western "donors" asking for the addresses of our children's homes and hospitals in order to send freight directly there. But it was here that blunders began. How, one asks, can a Barnaul children's home get its container at Sheremetyevo airport No. 2? Who will be concerned for preserving the freight? At whose expense is it to be transported to the other end of the country?... In general after a while many people understood we could not manage without a state coordinating organ and now foreigners trained in "Soviet" experience are simply demanding that they deal with one intermediary.

[Taranov] To judge by items in the Soviet and foreign press the main problem in distributing it is theft and embezzlements. Is that so?

[Zhitnikov] It is impossible completely to rule out the possibility of theft. We live in the country which we have and no one guarantees that a consignment of meat which has arrived at a home for the elderly will not be "pruned" by the home's service personnel.

As for large-scale theft, when whole cars of food go to the mafia, there is none of that now. I state that with all responsibility.

[Taranov] In the West many people believe that the presence of the "donors" during the distribution of aid will be the best protection against thieves. Is that true?

[Zhitnikov] What "guarantee" can there be if freight is being sent simultaneously to tens and hundreds of addresses? You would need to bring a whole army of monitors and observers with them. In addition we, like the local authorities, have no money to maintain and receive foreigners, to provide them with hotels, personal automobiles, and the services of an interpreter... If they want to pay for themselves then by all means let them come.

[Taranov] If not theft, then what for you personally is the most annoying and unpleasant aspect of work connected with humanitarian aid?

[Zhitnikov] The need to refuse requests. And many people make requests, including those who really are, as they say, in dire need of essential food and medicines. But where to get them for everyone?...

I am also pained that our great country is asking for aid, that we lack the most elementary things. But without support from the world community, however some "patriots" may treat it, we will not manage.

Yeltsin Pardons French Icon Smuggler

LD0702175192 Moscow TASS in English
1334 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Yuriy Soltys—TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 6 TASS—On the eve of his French visit Russian President Boris Yeltsin pardoned Jean-Paul Gicher, a citizen of France sentenced in March 1991 for four years in prison for smuggling.

The Russian Public Prosecutor's Office told CRIME-PRESS on Thursday [6 February] that Gicher, a commercial director of the "Golf-International" company engaged in transporting goods belonging to French citizens, employed two accomplices, a Russian and a foreigner, who were buying icons and church appliances for him. When a big load of goods was ready to be shipped to France, Gicher attempted to smuggle his treasures worth of 900 thousand roubles out of the country, but in vain.

Customs confiscated the haul of icons, which were estimated as historical valuables of Russia.

Federation Affairs

Gaydar Calls Commonwealth Talks Constructive

LD0902072792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Yegor Gaydar, deputy chairman of the government of Russia, assessed as "constructive to the highest degree" the results of the sitting of the council of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] heads of governments. In a RIA interview, he noted the depoliticized and concrete nature of the discussions, in which those who participated displayed the readiness to meet each other half way on rather complex questions.

Among the more important results of the sitting, Gaydar named the achievement bv the majority of the republics of mutual understanding on the question of freedom of transit, and also the recognition by all members of the CIS of the need for the tough regulation of the main spheres of activity, for instance, power engineering.

Gaydar said that the discussion of the question of supplying and financing the armed forces of the CIS in the first quarter of 1992 made it possible to channel the talks on that complex issue along concrete lines and to clear up the position of individual republics.

Burbulis Views Commonwealth Future

LD0702092492 Moscow TASS in English 0727 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—The creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States was prompted by the need for economic reforms, Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy Russian prime minister, said.

In an interview with the newspaper TRUD, he reiterated that Russia is responsible for military and political stability of the Commonwealth, whose members should establish legal norms and principles of relations to exclude territorial and other disputes.

He expressed hope that Commonwealth states will soon adopt such a document to exclude negative consequences of territorial disputes.

Burbulis wants to see the Commonwealth as "independent states which need each other and meet this need within the Commonwealth of Independent States".

There are three types of states within the Commonwealth of Independent States, which differ by their approach towards integration, according to Burbulis.

He believes Kazakhstan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, which are interested in preserving key Commonwealth structures, belong to the first type. The second type is the states which "are more interested in political and military integration as they cannot find ways to support the whole system of economic space".

Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Moldova, which prioritise the drive for independence, make up the third type.

Burbulis mentioned that the creation of a mechanism to implement agreements within the Commonwealth of Independent States proceeds in two main directions. The first one is the search for and formation of coordinating and regulating bodies in certain branches of economy and the second—the formation of a working coordinating group within the supreme bodies of power of Commonwealth states.

He did not rule out the possibility of creating an interparliamentary body to coordinate Commonwealth states' legislative activities.

Speaking on military issues, Burbulis reiterated that Russia "bears responsibility for the process of stabilisation in the military-political sphere within the Commonwealth of Independent States," and calls for single armed forces, both strategic and general purpose ones.

Touching upon the existing disagreement within the Russian Government, Burbulis admitted that there is a "strong desire to use bodies of power for counter-reforms and sometimes sabotage". "Communist structures are making attempts to restore themselves. And the harder reforms go, the more active their attempts will be," Burbulis said.

Further Reportage on Planned Moscow Rallies

Authorities Clarify Status

MK0802101592 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Moscow Government" rubric: "Rallies in the Capital"]

[Text] On the basis of an RIA report of 5 February an announcement regarding the rallies in Moscow has been circulated by a number of mass media. Regrettably, owing to its vagueness, this report generated a host of questions among Muscovites and countless telephone calls are coming in with these questions.

The reason being that this report does not indicate the organizations that have applied to hold a rally and gives the RIA author's interpretation of the subject of the rallies. In this connection the Moscow government press center states the following:

1. The organizers of the 8 February rally on Manege Square are the "Freedom" ["Svoboda"] movement and a group of Moscow Soviet deputies.

2. The rally on the same square 9 February is to be held by the "Trudovaya Moskva" organization, the Russian Communist Workers Party, the "Lenin and Fatherland" organization, the United Front of Working People, etc.

3. The White House rally (on Free Russia Square) is to be held by the association of defenders of the White House: "Living Ring" ["Zhivoye Koltso"], "August-91," "White Carnation" ["Belaya Gvozdika"], etc, the "Democratic Russia" movement, the Movement for Democratic Reforms, the Union of Moscow Labor Collectives; a number of public organizations—"Shield" ["Shchit"], "Military for Democracy," "Moscow Tribune," "April," the Association of Flight Personnel; and other democratic organizations.

DRM Denies Support

OW0702203992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Some of the co-chairmen of the Democratic Reform Movement [DRM] referred to the report that its leadership supported one side or another in the demonstrations set for February 8-9 in Moscow as "a discrepancy". They stated that organizing demonstrations is not recommended in view of the explosive social-political situation in the country.

Leaders of the Democratic Reform Movement, which includes Shevardnadze, Yakovlev, Sobchak, and other well-known political figures, stated their position to Interfax.

At the same time a member of the DRM press service reported that the Movement's leadership does not forbid its members from participating in demonstrations at their will.

Rally Leaders Issue Statements

LD0802032392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 7 Feb 92

["Statements" by L. Ponomarev, cochairman of the Democratic Russia movement; Vladimir Smirnov, chairman of the Servicemen for Democracy movement; and Yu. Chernichenko, chairman of the Peasants' Party in Moscow; date not given; unscheduled newscast—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ponomarev] Good evening. Here before you, you see representatives of the organizations that have been instrumental in organizing the rally in front of the White House on 9 February: Democratic Russia and Living Ring. [passage omitted]

Representatives of the defenders of the White House—organizations such as Living Ring, August-91, and so on—have long been ready, should there suddenly arise the danger of some kind of organized action against the White House, to rise at a moment's notice to the defense of the White House and to the defense of democracy, just as they did last August.

So when these aggressive leaflets from the communists appeared, calling on everyone to turn up on 9 February to storm the White House—and that is what the leaflets said—naturally the first thing the defenders of the White House did was announce a rally at the White House to defend democracy. An application was made to the Moscow Soviet, which was also backed by Democratic Russia.

Moreover, we understand that there is a very acute political struggle under way at present. Many political leaders have in effect come out against Yeltsin's policies and against Yeltsin personally. Tension is so high now that anything is possible, right up to a military putsch. So I want to put that question to a professional military man seated here with us. Volodya, what do you think, is a military coup possible now?

[Smirnov] As I see it, this is another recoiled wave being whipped up by neocommunists and national patriots, and the armed forces are being used in this game. These people are speculating with the real difficulties currently affecting the armed forces—of which there are a great number—and, in my view, they are deliberately refraining from resolving these difficulties. They have already dragged the army into the political game.

An officers' assembly has been held; a coordinating council has been created; a presidium and a chairman have been elected. All of this, to my mind, is nothing other than an anticonstitutional, military, sociopolitical organization, behind which—I believe—there stand quite influential reactionary forces. I believe there is a very great danger in this.

Moreover, the leadership of Russia lacks control over the armed forces at present. There are absolutely no structures to control the situation in the armed forces. There does exist in Russia the state committee for defense. But in practical terms it is unable to operate and is incapable of resolving anything. It is now being wound up. Its offices are being sealed, its communications cut off. Therefore the armed forces are outside anyone's control. In addition public-patriotic organizations of a jingoistic, conservative kind are springing up.

I think there exists a real danger of a military dictatorship. Muscovites have very often risen at the most crucial moments, have come out on to the streets and attended rallies to halt the onslaught of reaction. Well, such an acute danger does now exist, it has arisen. I believe that the people of Moscow have to come to this democratic rally to say a resolute no to the onslaught of reaction.

To some extent I believe also that this democratic rally should have an influence on the Russian leadership regarding the direction of its reforms and seeing that they go in the right direction. [passage omitted in which Chernichenko emphasizes that the way to make democracy strong is to press on with reforms; the Peasants' Party feels that reforms, particularly land reform, have not gone far enough, and that is why social tension remains; the government must lift all obstacle to land ownership quickly]

[Ponomarev] So, dear Muscovites, above all, I appeal to you to come along at 1030 on 9 February to the square in front of the Arbat metro station and join those who have decided again to defend democracy, to defend the White House. A march will set out from there to the White House. Those who do not wish to join the march can make their way directly to the White House. We are again faced with a threat like the one in August. These are no empty words. We can see how tension is mounting, and I appeal to you to come along on 9 February.

Revival Party News Conference

MK0802074492 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 2

[Anna Ostapchuk report: "Third Force? Skurlatov's Followers Will Go to White House, But Communists Threaten Not To Let Them In"]

[Text] Ahead of the two events of the coming weekend the leadership of the Revival Party headed by Valeriy Skurlatov held a news conference. Skurlatov's followers have not been invited to the Congress of Russia's Civil and Patriotic Forces, but they want to take part in it as observers and have even prepared their own proposal for it—demanding that the incumbent leadership resign and a coalition government of people's accord be urgently formed to operate until the next Russian multiparty parliamentary elections, which it would be good to hold this spring.

The Revival Party's demand echoes the resolution prepared by the organizers of the communist rally 9 February—regarding the need to convene a congress of USSR people's deputies by 9 March. Skurlatov said that a Union congress is needed to legitimize the incumbent authorities and that it must divest itself of the responsibility for the changes taking place in the country and hand over power to a new Russian parliament. According to his information, more than 1,000 deputies have expressed a desire to take part in the congress, thus ensuring that the gathering is authoritative. Meanwhile, Skurlatov believes, a determination to disband is developing within the Russian Supreme Soviet: The sentiments among deputies just have to be backed up "from below"—by bringing a million people onto the streets. Skurlatov's followers are glad to see Rutskoy in his new position and intend him as prime minister of the new coalition government. They categorically "oppose the idea of creating a 'Russian ghetto' in the guise of a 'Russian national state'"; "the Slav-Turkish symbiosis is eternally sacred to them."

The Revival Party has taken a unique position on the clash of rallies planned for 9 February: It will go to the White House 9 February and "try to hold a civilized discussion with ordinary members of 'Democratic Russia,' not setting itself against the 'Labor Moscow' [Trudovaya Moskva] columns but 'making their support apparent from the sidelines.'" Welcoming the neocommunists' desire to revive national statehood as "Communists in France, Italy, South Africa, and Japan have done," Skurlatov's supporters nevertheless trace their statehood [gosudarstvennicheskiy] roots not to them but to Kolchak and Denikin. Moreover, they are not as law abiding as the communists, who are satisfied (following Luzhkov's ban) with a rally on Manege Square. "We will be going to the White House," Skurlatov said.

"We feel that we are right and are prepared to look the authorities in the eye; evidently the communists do not feel this. Curiously, at a "Trudovaya Moskva" news conference held at the same time communist leaders said that their worker militia units, in conjunction with law-enforcement organs, will stop any unauthorized attempts to march on the White House.

In addition to the parallel actions, the Revival Party is planning its own—a torchlight procession 8 February and an "Empty Saucepan Parade" 15 February. The organizers intend housewives "armed" with clean crockery to gather at the Moscow Soviet and go to the Kremlin.

Popular Movement Leader Remarks

LD0802094492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0850 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (TASS)—Gennadiy Zyuganov, head of the coordinating council of the Movement of Popular and Patriotic Forces [Dvizheniye Narodno-Patrioticheskikh Sil], which brings together socialist-oriented parties, has told ITAR-TASS that this council "has given direct instructions to its followers taking part in the demonstrations not to commit breaches of the peace and to hand those who do provoke disorder over to the law-enforcement bodies."

Gennadiy Zyuganov called on the Russian Government to sit down at the negotiating table with representatives of parties of socialist orientation rather than label them as "red-brown". He refuted an assertion by political scientists who sent an analytical note to Yeltsin regarding the existence in Russia of underground CPSU oblast committees and added: "The line of struggle is not between communists and democrats but between supporters of preserving a single Russia and those who mess it up".

Poll on Yeltsin, Rallies

LD0902075292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Summary] Our Televison News Agency commissioned an opinion poll from the Independent Institute of Sociology and Parliamentarianism, headed by (?Nuksar Patanelli). It showed that only 10 percent of respondents think the Yeltsin government should resign; the government's actions are strongly supported by 56 percent; 18 percent don't care who governs us; 16 percent had difficulty in precisely defining their attitude.

As for tomorrow's rallies in Moscow, 80 percent of the adult population reject the idea of taking part in political demonstrations; only 7 percent firmly intend personally to take to the streets with placards. Even so, Yeltsin should have twice as many supporters as opponents among the marchers. Further details to be given in the program Itogi at 2200 Moscow time.

8 Feb Rally Staged

OW0802161192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Activists of the "Freedom" movement, comprising "Democratic Union", "Russian People's Front", "People's Labor Union" and other organizations that were staging a rally in Manezhnaya Square on Saturday [8 February] along with and a number of Moscow City Council deputies, called on Muscovites to refrain from attending mass actions scheduled for Sunday [9 February] in Moscow.

Valeriya Novodvorskaya, the leader of the Democratic Union, said any incidents during tomorrow's rallies of "Communists and pseudo- democrats" may be used by the authorities to prop up authoritarianism, including a possible introduction of martial law in the country. Along with the majority of speakers at the rally she described the current Russian leadership as "the old Communist nomenklatura which just changed its spots". "Any reforms are out of the question until they are in power", she said. [sentence as received]

The speakers also demanded that the CPSU be brought to international court, Vladimir Lenin's body be removed from his mausoleum in the Red Square and buried. They called for a real democratic revolution in Russia.

According to our correspondent's estimates, the rally brought together no more than one thousand people as compared to 35 thousand people "Freedom" expected to mobilize when it applied for a permit at the mayor's office.

'Down With Everything'

LD0802133492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We will slightly change the schedule of our program because our correspondent has just come back from the rally that continues in Moscow at the moment.

[Correspondent M. Ponomarev] We got used to mass meetings and demonstrations in the West a long time ago. We got used to mass meetings and demonstrations in our country a long time ago. However, people in the West come out into the streets with absolutely concrete demands. There are few concrete things here since one can demand anything one wishes—one would make no mistake since we do not have anything. And the main idea of the mass meeting on Manezhnaya Square today can be described as follows: Down with everything.

Those who spoke there warned not to believe to anybody, not to join anybody, and, on the whole, to prosecute everybody. Besides, absolutely shameless insults addressed to leaders at all levels sounded in every speech and the accent was made on the following: cwe will destroy to the foundation and then we will sort it out. So, what to do? Where to go and with whom? Irrespective of a political situation one wants to eat. The organizers of the mass meeting do not have the answer.

[V. Novodvorskaya] To support the authorities today and to demonstrate loyalty means to betray the ideals of democracy and to betray oneself. To go with communists means to become a fascist. Go neither here nor there. [video shows rally proceedings and Novodvorskay addressing it]

9 Feb Rallies Held

LD0902143992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1258 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy: "Demonstration of 'Moscow Workers' Movement Supporters Calling for 'From the Resignation of Criminal Government to the Revival of the USSR' as an alternative to the meeting at the White House in defense of the president of Russia and its government"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—At the instigation of a coalition of political parties and movements headed by the "Moscow Workers" [Trudovaya Moskva] public movement, thousands of Muscovites came to the capital's Manezhnaya Square today demanding the resignation of the government headed by Boris Yeltsin and the convening of an extraordinary USSR Congress of People's Deputies. Russian Internal Affairs Ministry staff estimate that about 100,000 people gathered in the square and on adjoining streets. The mass demonstration, held under red banners bearing the slogan "From the resignation of the criminal government to the revival of the USSR," began its march from Culture Park on the Garden Ring Road.

The demonstrators do not accept the economic policy of the Russian leadership, and are demanding that it be implemented in a just and gradual way, with social guarantees and reduction of prices that have been excessively raised. One of the main political demands made of "the powers that be" is that of promoting a policy of public harmony. If this is not done, then, in the opinion of the USSR and RSFSR people's deputies who spoke at the meeting, the only alternative is to express general no confidence in the government headed by the Russian president and have it resign. Backing the results of last year's referendum on the future USSR, those taking part in the meeting suggested convening an extraordinary USSR Congress of People's Deputies in March in order, "by peaceful means, to transfer power into the hands of the soviets and to prevent further collapse of the state" and to restore the country's Constitution in full measure.

There was one remarkable event during the demonstration: The organizers of the rally distanced themselves from the odious figure of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. He was not allowed on the podium. [Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1545 GMT on 9 February carries a similar report which adds the following video showing long shots and closeups of Manezh Square; red banners; poster showing caricature of Rutskoy, Yeltsin, and Burbulis astride three horses; speakers arriving, one bearing red banner and wearing red armband; banners reading: "We Will Not Permit Our Country To Become the 54th State of America," "Fascism Will Not Get Through," and "All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks"]

Further Details on Slogans

LD0902190392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Those who support the present Russian Government and those who oppose it held rallies in Moscow today. Here is a recording made by our special correspondent, Aleksandr Ruvinskiy:

[Begin Ruvinskiy recording] The rally on Svobodnaya Rossiya Square lasted for about three hours. About 120,000 people took part in it. Some cultural events also took place on the square. Defenders of the White House sang songs. The rally's sports program included a game of volleyball that took place next to the rally. The Union of Defenders of the White House—the live ring—was among the main organizers of the rally.

Well-known Russian people's deputies, representatives of public organizations, and guests from other towns spoke at the rally. There were quite a few. Major Yevdokimov also spoke at the rally. Many people may remember him. In August he disobeyed Yazov's order and sent his tanks to defend the White House. He is still a major, and he occupies a rather modest post at present.

What have all these people gathered for? To defend democracy, to defend reforms, first and foremost. I will cite some of the slogans: [words indistinct], No To Chauvinism; Do Not Treat People Like Cattle; Resist the Red-Browns; and Understanding and Support for Gaydar and Yeltsin. When one sees an invalid with no legs holding such a placard, one simply cannot fail to believe it. There was also the following slogan: No To Partocrats in Presidential Apparatus! I am citing the most typical slogans.

Incidentally, those at the rally are against holding other kinds of rallies at present. They say they will gather for yet another rally if national patriots and partocrats endanger democracy.

A resolution was adopted at the rally. It supports Yeltsin, it supports reforms, and it demands that privatization be increased. It also includes some new and rather unexpected points. In particular, it demands that the head of the presidential apparatus, Petrov, resign.

By the way, leaders at all levels were subjected to sharp criticism by the rally's participants. For example, the following slogan was seen at the rally: Sell Official Cars and Purchase Wheelchairs With the Money.

The resolution also partly concerned Khasbulatov and Rutskoy. It expressed the demand that populistic games be ceased and that army not be dragged into political games. The following point was included in the resolution at the request of those attending the rally: The new constitution of Russia must be adopted at the forthcoming congress.

No attempts were made to break through the ring surrounding the White House, and no provocations took place today. [end recording]

Political Strike Urged

OW0902141092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] The "Working Russia" association and some nationalist organizations launched a meeting in Moscow's Manezh Square Sunday [9 February]. [passage omitted]

Vladimir Stradymov from the coordinating council of "Working Russia" urged labor staffs in Moscow and other Russian cities to start preparations for a general political strike to be held to demand that the Yeltsin government resign and that the president in Russia be abolished.

Government Support Expressed

LD0902122792 Moscow TASS in English 1206 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow February 9 ITAR-TASS—Support for the Russian Government, the executive authorities in Moscow and a radical economic reform were the slogans under which a meeting near the Moscow "White House" was held today.

The idea of such a meeting was suggested by the "human chain" public movement of democratic trend, which had taken an active part in the defence of the White House on the days of last year's August coup, and by other public organisations.

Before the meeting began, those present honoured by a minute of silence the memory of those who had died on the days of the coup in Moscow.

Speakers at the meeting argued that democracy for which the White House defenders had fought was not achieved and that last year's triumph proved fragile and unstable. Representatives of parties and movements pointed out that partocrats that had entrenched themselves in the Russian Government hindered the carrying out of democratic reforms.

Those present unanimously adopted a resolution the essence of which came to several points: an immediate trial of the Soviet Communist Party, the removal of the Russian president's staff manager Yuriy Petrov, and the realisation of radical economic reforms.

Speakers maintained that 120,000 people gathered in the Free Russia square. However, an officer on duty at Moscow's central militia headquarters told ITAR-TASS that about 30,000 people were present at the meeting. There were no incidents.

Officials' Resignations Demanded

OW0902150792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Father Gleb Vakunin, MP [member of parliament] and cochairman of the movement "Democratic Russia", has demanded that the leader of the Russian President's administration Yuriy Petrov and the speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov resign. He charged them with hindering the policy of reforms launched by Boris Yeltsin. G. Yakunin made this statement on Sunday at a meeting in front of Russia's parliament. The demonstration was sponsored by the organizations of people who defended Russia's parliament during August's coup, by "Democratic Russia" and by the movement for democratic reforms. According to varying estimates, the meeting gathered some 100,000 people. [Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1100 GMT on 9 February carries a similar report which adds the following: "At this moment, Moscow's Svobodnaya Rossiya Square is packed as a meeting of democratic forces takes place. The opposition is also meeting right now in Manezhnaya Square. Reports indicate that the number of participants outside the Kremlin is incomparably smaller than outside the White House."]

"We are also dissatisfied with the Russian government", said the cochairman of "Democratic Russia", "but to call for its resignation now would be in the interests of the conspirators".

Most speakers at the meeting expressed resolute support for President B. Yeltsin. Many called for bringing the CPSU to trial.

'Tension' Noted

LD0902231292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Feb 92

[From the "Itogi" newscast]

[Text] Most experts agree that one of the most significant events of the week has been the confrontation between supporters and opponents of Yeltsin's government.

[Begin correspondent Vladimir Solovyev recording] The square in front of the White House has not seen such a mass of people since August. The situation was very tense for the first time since the putsch. The alarm in people's eyes was great. The two huge, hostile gatherings of people, the two extreme poles of the political struggle, were quite capable of provoking the predictable discharge of tension today. We have learned from well-informed circles in the Moscow administration that plans exist to introduce a state of emergency for an eight-month period. The disorder expected today was to have had precisely that kind of logical consequence. The disorder did not take place, but very strong tension remains.

Today's meetings brought many surprises. For example, criticism of those closest to Yeltsin and his apparatus was heard for the first time today from the platform of the White House, including criticism of Rutskoy and Khasbulatov. [video shows mass rally outside Russian White House; Gleb Yakunin is seen on the balcony chanting "Resign! Resign! Resign!"; another voice is heard to say: "...Rutskoy and why he isn't here. He should have been here, with us, together, as he was in the defense of the White House."; another voice is heard from the crowd: "Shame on Rutskoy!"]

Almost unconsciously, without realizing it themselves, those who spoke tried not to blame Yeltsin for everything. The negligent bureaucratic and oppositionist entourage came in for all the bumps and bruises. Meanwhile, Rutskoy went today to Lipetsk on a completely unannounced trip.

A demand for the people's heroes—the putschists—to be released resounded for all to hear on the lips of thousands of people in the crowd at the meeting of Moscow workers at Manezh Square. Once again Zhirinovskiy was brought to the platform. The demand was timidly expressed for the first time at the recent army conference. It was quite illogical to hear people demanding a lowering of prices and the return of a planned economy, as the party, the Komsomol, and Soviet power called for a national political strike in the gasping country. [video shows woman in crowd yelling: "The White House should not have been defended in August. They were only defended by the mafia, swindlers and thieves, dealers and cooperative people."; man in crowd shouts: "These dregs should be put on trial. If they would give me the honor I would shoot them by force of arms, here or anywhere."; woman in crowd yells agreement; Manezh Square demonstration is shown, with slogans, red flags, and picture of Stalin]

It was strange to see how, at both meetings, people were shouting down with whatever in the same way. They confidently described the meeting of their opponents as fascist.

Fortunately, despite the predictions, today's confrontations did not turn into clashes. The meetings that took place in Moscow, which to some degree determined the range of public feeling, became a reflection of the difficult thoughts that are torturing all of us today. Nevertheless, the main issues of the fate of the country and opposition or support for the government are not decided on public squares. Each one of us today makes a choice as to which banners we are to live under.

No Problems Reported

LD0902152792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1455 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Moscow militia was on special alert for the rallies attended by thousands of people today. Around 10,000 militia men were involved, and streets in several areas were sealed off not only by reinforced units but also by vehicles, Militia Major General Vladimir Ogorodnikov, chief of the Main Directorate for Public Order at the Russian Federation's Ministry of Internal Affairs, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in an interview.

There were no problems. However, at Zubovskaya Square a group of about 150 provocateurs tried to divert a column of marchers heading for Manezh Square toward the White House to confront people taking part in another demonstration. The militia had to make great efforts to prevent this from happening, otherwise there could have been clashes and fighting. Sadovoye Koltso had to be closed to traffic for a short time as a result of the marches.

Social Democrat Leader on Communist Revival

PM0702145092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Boris Orlov, member of the Social Democratic Party of Russia Presidium, by correspondent Pavel Anokhin; date, place not stated: "The Womb That Brought Forth the Serpent..."]

[Text] It is no exaggeration to say that the whole country is awaiting 9 February in a state of tension. Today it is clear not only to politicians that the rally, the hunger march, and the march on the White House planned by the neobolsheviks could lead to an exacerbation of the social situation not only in the capital, but in the Russian Federation as a whole.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent asked Doctor of Historical Sciences Boris Orlov, member of the SDPR [Social Democratic Party of Russia], to comment on the situation that has arisen.

[Anokhin] Astonishing things are happening. You get the impression that the communist movement is being revived in our country...

[Orlov] Society is reaping the fruits of its own complacency. The organization that brought the country to a state of complete ruin was reproached, a decree was issued on its dissolution, but it was left virtually untouched. That was a mistake. As a Germanist I am familiar with the process of defascistization of Germany after 1945. At that time they banned the National Socialist Workers Party of Germany—basically an exact analogue of our own CPSU—and put its ringleaders on trial. At the trial so many details of the misdeeds of Hitlerism were revealed that the public recoiled in horror from the party and its ideas. In those conditions, to continue to call yourself a Nazi was to admit your complicity in the gas ovens where tens of thousands of people were burned. But for our society, Shalamov's documentary stories, Solzhenitsyn's large-scale literary and historical study "The GULAG Archipelago," and other testimonies and analytical studies revealing the true nature of bolshevism were not enough. Our society even started to grumble when the publication of that criminal organization's press organs was suspended: What about pluralism, people said.

[Anokhin] Do you think a trial of the CPSU should be held?

[Orlov] Preferably not a trial, but public hearings with the participation of the most authoritative representatives of society. It is not a question of revenge, but of uncovering the fatal role that the bolsheviks played in Russia's history. Deflecting the country from the path of worldwide civilization, crippling the lives of at least three generations, destroying the intellectual and spiritual flower of the nation, polluting Russia's open spaces by turning it into a garbage heap, turning society into one vast concentration camp with only a theoretical distinction between those in the camps and those at liberty—these are not simply errors of theory. This is a criminal state, with the general secretary as ringleader! And after all that, representatives of this same "party" are openly calling for a return to the old system. Future historians, when they write about this, will shudder—how could people tolerate such things? As we can see now, people have not only tolerated it, some of them are even prepared voluntarily to give their allegiance to the old bolshevist banners again.

[Anokhin] Judging by the neobolsheviks' previous actions, there are more and more of these people.

[Orlov] We need a thorough sociological analysis of the motivation behind these people's behavior. The reasons are various. For instance, there is the "Firs" syndrome—Firs was the servant in Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard* who, on receiving his freedom, took to lamenting the old days of serfdom. But the main reason is plain to see—life has become very difficult, and almost unbearable for some people. Where can they turn to? The president and government say—be patient. But here are the "champions of the people's welfare," saying—we are on your side, let us rally our forces, throw out Yeltsin and Gaydar, and go back to "sovietization" of the Russian economy. In their desperation, they never imagine for a moment that their situation is being shamelessly exploited by those same forces that created the "hunger lies" in the first place and wanted to bring back the old system in the days of the August putsch. Now they are simply using different tactics, drawing on the people's support, so to speak.

[Anokhin] Can you produce facts in support of your allegation?

[Orlov] The facts are plain to see. Just look—a special edition of a newspaper and three different pamphlets are being published in time for the rally, and placards and banners are being made. The so-called "people's militia" will be in operation. Where is it all coming from—paper, funds, ink, cars, buses, megaphones? We know from our own experience what difficulties are encountered even in organizing an ordinary conference. Yet in this case, everything is to hand—just come to the rally! The same old bolshevik method is clearly perceptible—pursuit of one's own objectives under cover of pseudopopular demonstrations. That is how it was in October 1917, and that is what they are trying to do in February 1992.

[Anokhin] How are the Russian social democrats reacting to the situation that has arisen? What can they tell the people, these same despairing individuals?

[Orlov] We supported Yeltsin in the elections. We support his government activity too. Moreover, one of the vice premiers in the government, A. Shokhin, was recommended by our party. At the Ministry of Labor and Employment one of the deputy ministers is P. Kudyukin, a member of the SDPR board. But we immediately made it clear: We will support you, but if something is not how it should be, we will say so openly. And we have stated repeatedly: It is not the point that there is still no private ownership of the land, without which a real market economy cannot be established. It is not the point that instead of democratic privatization a process of nomenklatura "grab-atization" is under way. It is not the point that the president is appointing as heads of administrations the same old ex-party apparatchiks. It is not the point that the reforms that have begun are one-sided—they are putting up prices, but not letting people earn money. And so forth. What matters is that our criticism should be helpful, rather than being directed toward destruction, still less toward an overthrow. We realize that there are no simple solutions to complex problems. Of course, those who want simple and speedy answers are not satisfied with that explanation. What can you do! In terms of its political ethos, social democracy is more suited to concrete work than to rallies. Although, as the August events showed, social democrats are not afraid of rallies either.

[Anokhin] Do the social democrats intend to take part in the counterdemonstration 9 February?

[Orlov] I will tell you my personal view. The neobolsheviks are planning a provocation, rather than a demonstration. And they will be very pleased if a pretext for clashes arises. That is what they want, just as it was what the Nazis wanted in their day, when they organized their gatherings in the streets of German cities. The democrats should not go along with this provocative scenario. Self-possession. Restraint. Patient explanatory work. And, of course, the application of the law should be considered. It is a truism that if you do not keep criminals in check, they become even more brazen. Is that not clear from the neobolsheviks' increasingly frequent "people's events"? Look at the spiteful faces of many of the participants in these gatherings. When I look at them I think about those who are behind it all. And I remember Brecht's well-known warning: "The womb that brought forth the serpent is still fertile."

Civic, Patriotic Forces Congress Opens 8 Feb

LD0802105892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] A congress of the republic's civic and patriotic forces opened in Moscow on Saturday, 8 February. Rutskoy, the Russian vice president, is attending and intends to make a speech. Vyacheslav Polosin, spokesman for the organizing committee, told INTERFAX that the purpose of the congress is to set up a broad movement, which will be provisionally called the Russian Popular Assembly. We want to consolidate society's patriotic forces which adhere to democratic leanings and which reject both nationalism and communism. We do not share the government's point of view on the economic reforms that are being carried out and on the way in which questions relating to ethnic and state order are being tackled. We oppose the government policy but not the government itself, said Polosin.

Participants Greeted by Pickets

LD0802134392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The fate of Russia is the focus of debates among participants in the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces which is under way at the moment at Moscow's Rossiya Theater. Several parties, party blocs, and patriotic movements are taking part in it. Our special correspondent has the details:

[Correspondent I.Minayev] The congress participants were greeted by pickets with banners and slogans which were rather sharp in content. [video shows people carrying posters saying "Having fed on democracy, we will attach our suckers to patriots—Aksyuchits, Astafyev" and "Imposters, not patriots, have gathered here"] The congress organizers—the leaders of the Christian Democrats and the Constitutional Democratic Party—invited neither communists nor ultra-patriots and promised that there would not be so much as a hint of extremism at the congress. Nevertheless, very resolute-minded Pamyat activists, led by Vasilyev, managed to barge their way into the conference hall. Despite all their efforts, it nevertheless proved possible to open the congress.

The chief objective of the congress, according to the speeches of its participants and organizers, is the prosperity of the homeland, for whose sake all constructive forces must act in concert.

The congress was addressed by the Russian vice president. He sharply criticized the government for what he regarded as its latest ill-considered experiment on the people, which is leading to total pauperization. He called on people to serve Russia and not her changing leaders. Aleksandr Rutskoy's speech sparked a surge of enthusiasm in the hall, but left the Pamyat activists indignant, and another unscheduled recess had to be announced.

[V.V. Aksyuchits, chairman of the political council of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement] The Moscow militia refused to help us, and we've ended up quite defenseless against extremists. But we will hold our forum, and we will establish an organization that will champion the interests of Russia and defend the rights and freedoms of Russians.

Pamyat Leader Speaks

LD0802220792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1945 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Processes are under way in Moscow which in time threaten to alter the trajectory of Russia's development and the world itself, given Russia's size. The Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces opened in the Rossiya cinema today. People weary of the uncertainty and burden of experiments gathered today to find the next unifying idea. It began with a scandal: Black shirts from the Pamyat society burst into the hall loudly demanding that Dmitriy Vasiliyev, their leader, be given the floor. They were prevented from breaking through onto the platform by cossacks. Surrounded by his supporters—for the moment, armed only with a megaphone—Dmitriy Vasiliyev held his own:

[Begin Vasiliyev recording; video shows Vasiliyev shouting through a megaphone from the floor] First, communism failed for you; then, democracy didn't work for you either; now you want to curb the national idea and once again deceive the people as you did in 1917. However, this time, no matter how much you shout at us and call us provocateurs, it will not cause us to lose our Russianness, and we will ask you who you are, and pretty soon, at that.... [end recording]

The incident ended with the strains of Talkov's song loudly issuing forth from all the cinema loudspeakers, and an interval was announced.

Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's speech was the focal point. His address aroused a great deal of interest:

[Begin Rutskoy recording] Esteemed compatriots, I am sincerely grateful for the invitation to this imposing assembly. We are gathered here today, I think, with the aim not only of asking ourselves the question of what is happening to our fatherland, Russia, but also of answering the question of what we should do and how we should act for the well-being of all peoples and ethnic groups—at one time united by brotherhood—populating great Russia, the great Russian fatherland. [applause] [end recording]

Those were pictures from Germany's ARD television. It was these very scenes that the company singled out in its report today.

However, more on Rutskoy's speech: Clearly differentiating his position from that of the president—herein, there is already a paradox—the Russian vice president accused the government of conducting a policy of economic genocide and being prepared to opt for the death of pensioners queueing for milk and schoolchildren fainting from hunger. To a thunderous burst of applause, Aleksandr Rutskoy called for an economic state of emergency, though it is not yet clear exactly what that means.

The Congress, which was assembled on the initiative of Christian Democrats and Kadets, with right-centrists, cossacks, and Orthodox fraternities participating, will continue its work tomorrow. A new organization is expected to be set up: This will be called the Russian

People's Assembly, and this is expected to be in opposition to Democratic Russia and the Movement for Democratic Reforms. [video, identified as ARD video by video caption, shows: black shirted men standing in auditorium, Dmitriy Vasiliyev shouting through a megaphone, cossacks trying to restore order, Rutskoy stepping onto platform that is draped with the Russian flag, and Rutskoy addressing the congress]

People's Party Boycotts Congress

LD0802172192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1315 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 8 Feb (TASS)—Several dozen black-shirted hooligans from the ultranationalist "Pamyat" organization, led by Dmitriy Vasiliyev, virtually ruined the ceremonial opening of the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces of Russia today, organized by a group of parties and movements of "state patriotic" orientation. [passage omitted]

The congress was staged by the Russian Christian Democratic Movement Party (RCDM) and its ally in the "National Accord" [Narodnoye Soglasiye] bloc, the Constitutional Democratic Party (Party of People's Freedom). [passage omitted]

The main event of the first day of Congress work was Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's speech calling for "the restoration of Russia's historic image" and again criticizing the Russian Government. [passage omitted]

The board of the People's Party of Free Russia (PPFR), which Aleksandr Rutskoy leads, decided yesterday not to participate in the Congress, believing that the new political movement would be too conservative. The vice president called the PPFR board's decision "a mistake." In his speech today, he said that various forces had tried to persuade him not to speak at the Congress. "I have received telephone threats for two days," he said.

RCDM Cochairman Viktor Aksyuchits condemned "the forces in power" for putting into practice "utopian, extreme left-wing ideas which are alien to us" aimed at destroying the foundations of society and the collapse of the Russian state. Patriotic forces must forget their differences, he stated, and unite for the sake of saving Russia. The congress was called, he stressed, to create a single patriotic movement and to form a new political organization, the Russian National Assembly [Rossiyskoye Natsionalnoye Sobraniye].

Mikhail Astafyev, leader of the Cadets, condemned "attempts by the extreme left-wing press" to "paint Congress participants in red and brown colors." He called on "all healthy forces in society" to find a way to revive the country. "We are criticizing the government: It is not defending our national interests," Mikhail Astafyev said.

Delegates Attend

LD0902010292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1532 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—On February 8, a Congress of Civil and Patriotic Forces opened in Moscow.

The Congress had been organized by the Constitutional-Democratic Party of Russia (CDPR), the Russian Christian Democratic Movement, and the Russian Popular Union. In the congress organizers' opinion, about 1000 delegates representing 48 Russian regions, 8 autonomous entities, as well as 12 regions of Ukraine are taking part in its deliberations. The Congress is also attended by representatives of various political bodies, merchants, noblemen. Among the participants, in particular, is the USSR People's Deputy Viktor Alksnis and the Editor in Chief of GLASNOST Yuriy Izyumov.

The first day of the Congress opened with a speech made by RF [Russian Federation] Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Then the floor was taken by the RF People's Deputy Viktor Aksyuchits, chairman of the Congress's organizing committee, the People's Deputy of Russia Nikolay Pavlov, co-chairman of the RF Supreme Soviet faction—Shift-New Policy Movement—Andrey Golovin, as well as the CDPR Chairman Mikhail Astafyev, who said: The political censorship is being revived in Russia. We are denied access to live broadcasting. Astafyev made known that prior to the Congress of Civil and Patriotic Forces, he and Viktor Aksyuchits had been told that they would not be granted live broadcasting on the Russian TV channel, no matter what the pretext.

Speaking on behalf of the Congress's organizers, the chairman of the Russian National Republican Party Nikolay Lysenko stated: We say no to the policy pursued by the Yeltsin-Gaydar government. Dmitriy Vasiliyev, leader of Pamyat Russian National Patriotic Front, demanded to be given the floor at 12:10 A.M., the result of which was announcing a break by the Presidium until 2 P.M. In the lobby of Rossiya movie house, where the Congress is taking place, they sell issues of DEN, PRAVDA, PAMYAT, RUSSKY RUBEZH, alongside the programs of Russian patriotic parties.

Participants Issue Statements

OW0802175692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Nikolay Lysenko, leader of the National- Republican Party, said the Congress was organized by the people who were trying to overcome a split in the patriotic movement. According to Lysenko, the Russian state began to break up since Boris Yeltsin said "Take as much sovereignty as you wish".

Lysenko denounced disarmament in the form proposed by Yeltsin as "a sellout".

The Russian nation is dying out at the rate of 1.5 million a year and a thought-over concept of Russian revival is indispensable, Lysenko said.

Vladimir Stradymov, a member of the coordinating council of the "Working Russia" movement did not rule out a possible cooperation with the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces. Despite principled disagreements with respect to private property, he said in an IF [INTERFAX] interview, we could work together on a number of issues, of which the most urgent is the preservation of a single state. In the future, he added, a mass patriotic, anti-fascist movement may be set up on the basis.

Futher on Speeches

LD0902034092 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1945 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Excerpt] Moscow—[passage omitted] Nikolay Lysenko, chairman of the National Republican Party of Russia (NRPR) and chairman of the organizing committee of Congress of Civil and Patriotic Forces of Russia held in Moscow, spoke on February 8 at the congress and said that the basic issues in Russia were the flourishing national sovereignties, the disintegration of the Russian Army, and the problems of rescuing the Russian nation. He identified the policy in the field of disarmament conducted by Russian President Boris Yeltsin as the policy of national treason in Russia. Lysenko also said: If the state wants to get better, it should set the interests of national entrepreneurs as top priority of its economic policy.

Dmitriy Vasiliyev, leader of the Russian National Patriotic Front Pamyat, made a speech and expressed non-confidence to the congress Presidium. He said the Congress is another party meeting...our aim is not the party, our aim is Russia. Vasiliyev and his supporters left the session hall.

Georgiy Kokunko, deputy head of Russian Cossack troops staff, emphasized: The authorities impede the restoration of the Cossacks army and the endorsement of the law on rehabilitation of the Cossacks. In his opinion the revival of the integrated Russian state cannot be achieved without the Cossacks. The Congress is participated by representatives of 8 Russian Cossack regiments.

Vladimir Sveshnikov, priest of Russian Orthodox Church, said that the spiritual revival of Russia can only occur through Christianity.

Representatives of the Union of National Nationalists announced the commencement of a general Russian strike that is scheduled for May 9, 1991 in some of former USSR regions, including Kazakhstan, Tatarstan, Caucasus, and Donetsk region, and which in compliance with the elaborated plan will undermine the economy of the region. The organizers of the general Russian strike intend so far to let alone Yeltsin's government until the autumn attack, representatives of the Russian General Popular Union proposed to make the Congress of Civil and Patriotic Forces a standing opposition organ.

Gennadiy Zyuganov, former secretary of Russian Communist Party Central Committee, gave an interview to PF [POSTFACTUM] and supported the idea of setting up joint opposition to the current government.

On February 9 it is scheduled to discuss the issue of establishing the Movement of Civil and Democratic Forces of Russia.

Participants' Response Detailed

LD0802195392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1530 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (TASS)—The second half of today's session of the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces showed that the organizers' intention to unite the "sober and constructive" right-centre opposition failed. The predominant line was frankly chauvinist after Pamyat leader Dmitriy Vasiliyev's address. The hall rocked with applause at speeches taking a neonationalist line, at delegates' anti-Semitic statements, and at speeches against the "policy of genocide against the Russian people which is being conducted by the present antipopular government."

Whistling and stamping by a substantial number of delegates interrupted the address by organizing committee member Gleb Onishchenko, who called for "restrained and wise opposition to the government" and for "a final attempt to unite patriots." A suggestion from a Krasnodar delegate to hold a "Russian national strike" in the independent republics of the former Union and the former Russian autonomous formations met with thunderous applause. "This has been a very difficult day. I had no idea it would be so hard," Cadet leader Mikhail Astafyev told ITAR-TASS. However, he thinks the government should know that "there are people like this and attitudes like this do indeed exist" and should take this into account with their policies.

Participants Oppose Extremism

LD0902170492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Report by reporter I. Minayev from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces continued in Moscow today. It was calmer at the congress today. There were no demonstrators with placards at the entrance, no conflicts in the corridors, no Cossacks guarding the Presidium, and no Pamyat activists in the hall.

All the speakers, without exception, voiced concern about the future of Russia. They suggested ways of ending the economic and political crisis, some of them highly distinctive. Igor Shepelevich, for instance, believes that we should put our trust in the trade unions. In his view, the intelligentsia should go to the people, who are now suffiently mature to achieve something real. Priest Vyacheslav Polosin, a Russian people's deputy and one of the leaders of the Christian Democratic Movement, believes that the government's policies, rather than the government itself, should be changed. This would be the Christian way of doing things.

The participants in the congress are against extremism of all kinds. They disapprove of the rallies being held in Moscow today.

A mass patriotic movement, the Russian People's Assembly, was founded at the congress today. The congress is expected to adopt the assembly's statutes and policy documents.

The congress is continuing its work at this very moment. More detailed information will be available later. [video shows congress in session]

'Popular Assembly' Goals Noted

*LD0902203492 Moscow TASS in English
1856 GMT 9 Feb 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—The Russian Popular Assembly is a new organisation, which was formed on Sunday [9 February], the second and closing day of the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces of Russia.

The assembly, which stands a chance of becoming a powerful political movement opposing the current leadership of the country, includes representatives of a number of political parties and representatives of public and cultural organisations.

The Central Council of the Russian Popular Assembly will include representatives of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement, the Constitutional Democratic Party (the Party of People's Freedom), the National Republican Party of Russia, the Russian Party of National Rebirth, the Russian Party of the Monarchist Centre, the Russian Union, the Cossaks Union, various patriotic associations.

"The Russian Popular Assembly will be a socio-political movement opposing the current Russian leadership, above all the government and a considerable part of parliament. It will be an alternative to the Democratic Russia Movement and the Democratic Reform Movement which pursue a course that does not meet Russia's interests," Russian People's Deputy Nikolay Pavlov, member of the organising committee of the congress, told ITAR-TASS.

The statement adopted by the congress on Sunday says that the assembly is striving "to revive by political means the great united Russian state within its historic boundaries." The document calls for "recognition of the Russian Federation as the successor to the Russian Empire and the USSR" and for "the preservation of the Russian Federation's unity."

The assembly proclaimed as its priority political tasks bringing about the resignation of the current Russian Government "uncapable of upholding Russia's state and national interests" and forming "a new government of popular accord and national rebirth" and "preserving unity of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation as the successor to the USSR."

The statement of the congress contains the demand to proclaim null and void "the unconstitutional act on the transfer of the Crimean region by the Russian Federation to the Ukrainian Republic in 1954." The new political organisation declares for "spreading Russian sovereignty to the entire territory of the Republic of South Ossetia" and for denouncing the 1956 Soviet-Japanese declaration regarding the minor Kurile range.

Regarding the Kuriles, the congress adopted a separate resolution which says that "Russian lands should not be given out" and demanded that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev resign.

Memo for Yeltsin Noted

*OW0902172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1638 GMT 9 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Congress of Russian Civic and Patriotic Forces announced Sunday [9 February] the setting up of a Russian People's Assembly. The new movement insists on changing the country's political and economic direction, considering its the preservation of Russia's unity and integrity as its major goal.

Viktor Aksyuchits, chairman of the Congress's organizing committee and the leader of the Russian Christian Democratic Party told IF [INTERFAX] the forum achieved its main objective. "A broad coalition of political forces striving to revive the Russian statehood has been set up", he stressed. Christian democrats and constitutional democrats, according to Aksyuchits, will form the basis of the new movement.

Russian parliamentarian Nikolay Pavlov, a member of the Congress's organizing committee, said at the closing session that "he had seen a memo for president Boris Yeltsin signed by Russian foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev concerning the transfer of the Kuril Islands to Japan".

Nikolay Pavlov said in an IF [INTERFAX] interview he did not have a copy of the document but he had an opportunity "to familiarize himself with it".

The memo explains "how to calm the public opinion so that the transfer of the islands to Japan could be as painless as possible", he said.

Pavlov also insisted the memo recommended president Yeltsin to officially reaffirm the Soviet-Japanese Declaration signed in 1956 during his Tokyo visit next September. The Declaration envisages the transfer of two of the four contested Kuril islands to Japan after a bilateral peace treaty was signed.

Strong State Power Urged

OW0902145192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the 2nd day of its work the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces has called for altering Russia's political and economic course and for replacing Russia's government. It convened on Saturday [8 February] and gathered more than 1,000 delegates from 10 former Soviet republics, from many parts of Russia and Ukraine. On Saturday the delegates were addressed by the Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy who strongly criticized the government and qualified the reforms it had launched as a "democratic experiment on the people".

The appeal adopted by the Congress on Sunday [9 February] says that "strong state power alone is capable of protecting the rights, freedoms, dignity and property of Russia's citizens". "All public and state forces in Russia should rise to preserve its unity and indivisibility", said the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces in its appeal.

Besides, the appeal calls for granting taxation and credit privileges to domestic businesses.

Another document adopted by the Congress says that "the present government of national humiliation should be replaced by a government of national concord". According to it, the new government will have to resolutely revise Russia's domestic and foreign policies. The foremost task of such a government, the statement points out, should be to preclude the disintegration of statehood, avert political and economic chaos, curb crime, launch genuine economic reforms, and ensure dignified existence for the state of Russia.

IZVESTIYA Correspondent Remarks

LD0902225192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Report by IZVESTIYA reporter V. Vyzhutovich from the "Itogi" newscast]

[Text] It seems that as long has Russia has existed, there have been people calling for its salvation. The harder the times, the more confident the voices of those who have made a profession and a political battleground out of patriotism. The Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces brought together politicians obsessed with the idea of national Russian statehood. [video shows Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces of Russia in progress, literature on sale in foyer] The idea is not before its time; unlike other republics of the former Union, Russia still does not have recognized national-state interests.

At any rate, none are officially proclaimed, which is both good and bad. It is good, because the absence of such interests makes it possible to cherish the fine—not to mention starry-eyed—dream about a Commonwealth of Independent States. It is bad, because it gives the partners grounds to suspect Russia of having secret imperial ambitions.

Such suspicions have been confirmed. Such ambitions do exist. True, they are not yet at the official level. Those taking part in the Congress—Kadets [Constitutional Democrats], Christian Democrats, Baburin's National Alliance [obshchenarodnyy soyuz], and others, were united by the idea of strong state power and the principle of a united and indivisible Russia. For many that means Russia within pre-1917 borders. The Cossacks are allocated the role of protecting these borders.

Judging by what one could hear and see at the congress, a powerful group of political forces is emerging that opposes the present Russian leadership. This is the first non-communist opposition to Yeltsin. Its social base promises to be fairly broad and strong—the Army, the military-industrial complex, national patriotic movements, and, what is most important of all, the millions-strong hungry lines.

The leaders of the opposition that has come into being will find it easier to get people on their side than it was for the democrats. The latter were instilling ideals and values in people for whom they were new, while the patriots are appealing to concepts that Soviet citizens are accustomed to, such as strong state power, unified and valorous armed forces, and a mighty and indivisible power from the tayga to the British seas. The chances of the patriots are increased even further by the split in the Democratic Russia Movement. After all, this was Yeltsin's bulwark.

Who could be in the running for the role of leader of the opposition that is being formed? Mr. Zhirinovskiy? No. General Makashov? No. Nina Andreyeva? No. The organizers of the congress tried scrupulously to exclude odious politicians from it, by this token wishing to impart the necessary patina of respectability to their movement. This is unlikely to succeed, judging by the scandalous presence of representatives of the Pamyat society in the hall. But a leader is needed. Who? Aleksandr Rutskoy. There you have a figure who fits in every respect. A fighter pilot, a Hero of the Soviet Union, the organizer of the defense of the White House, and, most important, vice president of Russia. In what other country does the government's opposition have the support of the No. Two in the state? In what other country does the vice president criticize the president's policy before he himself has resigned?

Perhaps those who suggest that Russia's path is a special one are right. Either Rutskoy will continue for some time to be our man in the alien camp, and their man in his own camp, that is, keeping the post and meanwhile continuing to support the opposition, or he will resign and start campaigning for the presidency. Which outcome proves to be more probable depends on Yeltsin as well. So far, the president has tried not to comment on his vice president's behavior. Perhaps he senses a serious threat to his power in the new movement, and hence is leaving some room to maneuver. Knowing the unpredictability of the Russian president and his tendency toward populism, one cannot rule out that Yeltsin himself might want to become the movement's leader at any moment.

The leaders of the new opposition do not see Russia other than within the borders of the former USSR. Here they like to quote Stolypin: You, gentlemen want great upheavals, but we want a great Russia. Judging by what the national patriots are calling for, what they want is upheaval.

Burbulis Interviewed on Economic Reforms

LD0902214392

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1830 GMT on 9 February broadcasts a live or recorded 20-minute 9 February interview with Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy prime minister of Russia, by correspondent Tatyana Khudobina in an unidentified location.

Asked how far complaints against the government are justified, Burbulis says people do not want to mark time. A working timetable of reform will be offered, he says, adding that businessmen are the mainspring of reform. Experts will go to the localities to diagnose what is hindering progress.

Burbulis says that today's demonstrations show the strength of the spirit of rebirth.

Khudobina says that few people are economically free; are the businessmen opposed to the government, she asks? Burbulis replies:

"The fact is that there are two strata today: There is the president and his government, a certain section of the Supreme Soviet, and the active population in the localities. But there is a second stratum—the so-called nomenclature reformers, who, while preventing the majority from joining in the new economic relations, are simultaneously using this period for their own, if you like, regrouping. Until they have sated themselves, they will not give us a chance to act."

Burbulis says that the Council of Entrepreneurs under the president will play an active role. The unions are willing to take part in the government program, he adds.

Asked when the slump in production will end, Burbulis says that sharper falls have been predicted. But there is hope. The Council of Commonwealth heads of state is working to stabilize and stimulate the economic links of the various regions and enterprises within the framework of the Union's former economy. Customs rules have been simplified and a document passed on creating a unified electric power supply, Burbulis says. Transport charges are to be standardized. Ecological cooperation is planned. Russia is to have the right to represent the interests of the other states, except Ukraine, in credit matters.

Burbulis points out that regularity and reliability of supplies between enterprises in different republics is a key question; if it can be solved, output may rise, he says.

Khudobina asks if there could be resistance on the part of the heads of large enterprises who "don't know what will become of them in the process of privatization"?

Burbulis responds that their role must be firmly laid down. They could be given contracts with the government for fixed periods during the shaping of the new economic structures, or they could be paid by results. But the revanchists opposed to reform are also seeking to influence the businessmen, he adds.

Khudobina asks about a conference this week, to which the press was not admitted, between state adviser Skokov and managers of leading enterprises. Burbulis says they "assessed the situation, particualrly in Russia's regions, from the viewpoint of economic security and the role of the collectives and their leaders in providing for such security in the future." Burbulis says that economic activity must not become paralyzed.

Should the managers be given incentives to carry out reform, or are they genetically unfit and unwilling to do so, Khudobina asks Burbulis, adding is their a middle way? Burbulis says that farm managers can head land reform commissions. The "civil war of the 1990s" must not be repeated. There could be a huge clash of interests. Land must be distributed justly. Officials who hold things up must be punished or sacked, Burbulis says.

Chubays, Filippov Hold Privatization Meeting

LD0702185392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the state committee on property, and Petr Filippov, chairman of the

Supreme Soviet subcommittee on privatization, held a meeting today in the press center on Zubevskaya Street.

[Correspondent N. Chernyshova] The chairman of the Russian Federation state committee on property called February a turning point in the economic reforms. The most important part of the reforms—privatization—has received the appropriate documentation and now can be implemented more quickly throughout the territory of Russia.

With this goal in mind, 89 property committees have been created at the local level to examine applications urgently regardless of their origin—from labor collectives, administrations, basic workers, or uninvolved people. Labor collectives will receive 25 percent of the corresponding shares gratis and another 10 percent can be bought at a discounted rate. Administrations will have the right to buy another 5 percent at face value. The rest of the shares will be sold on a competitive basis. Furthermore—and this is particularly important—labor collectives will receive 10 percent of the wholesale price; they also can take on shares received without payment from people who wish to sell theirs.

In the words of the participants in the news conference: In any event, everybody gains from privatization. Anatoliy Chubays rejected the assumption that there is a danger that property will be seized by mafia-like structures, labeling this idea an invention of the media. Nevertheless, he noted that the whole process must be conducted openly. The speaker explained the government's position on administrative limitations on foreigners in the privatization process. While such a ruble-dollar exchange rate exists, he said, we cannot permit our enterprises to be bought for a song. Chubays said in conclusion that the government of reforms has been criticized for many things, but never for inaction. God willing, this will continue to be the case.

Further on News Conference

LD0802051392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Russian State Committee for State Property, we will privatize everything that can be privatized. He was speaking at a news conference today.

Only underground resources, nature reserves, the public purse and the property of the armed forces are not subject to privatization. The full list, which is said to be exhaustive, contains 23 categories. According to studies by sociologists and economists, privatization should already bring in 92 billion rubles [R] this year. This will be divided between the state and property owners under a certain percentage ratio. In order to reduce bribery to a minimum, privatization will be based on competitive bidding and auctions.

Here's another significant detail. The law gives preferential rights to domestic investors over Western ones. As for who will be given preference when the Moscow International Trade Center, built by the American millionaire Hammer, is privatized, that will have to be decided by President Yeltsin.

Further Details

OW0702155692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays, head of the Russian Federation's State Property Management Committee, told journalists in Moscow on Thursday [6 February] that privatization would get fully under way in Russia as early as this month. He said the process had been impeded by the absence of a solid legal basis; now a package of appropriate laws was ready at last.

According to Chubays, the year 1992 will see 20-25% of Russia's state property transferred into private hands. In some industries, e.g., in the srvices sector, the figure should be as high as 60-70%. The privatization campaign is due to bring 92 bln rbl [billion rubles] into the national budget this year, and up to 350 bln in 1993.

Asked by IF's [INTERFAX] reporter whether Russian property would be available to hard currency owners, Mr. Chubays said there would be certain restrictions until the ruble's exchange rate stabilized. "Otherwise an American student might earn during a week's vacation at home enough money to buy a small machinebuilding plant in Russia," he noted.

According to Chubays, privatized enterprises will not be exempt from taxation under any conditions.

Food Production in 1991 Falls by 9%

LD0702151992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1332 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (TASS)—Production of the main kinds of food in Russia last year fell by 9 percent compared with 1990, the Russian Federation's Goskomstat announced today.

In absolute terms, there was a shortfall in the deliveries of meat, for example, amounting to 961,000 tons [as received]. The figure for prepared meat products was 204,000 tons, animal oil 108,000 tons, cheeses 65,000 tons, and whole-milk products 2.3 million tons. In more than 90 percent of regions, there was a fall in the output of sausages, prepared meat, and animal oil. Factories controlled by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture reduced the production of granulated beet sugar by 706,000 tons—nearly one-third of the former quantity.

The production of canned fruit and vegetables, confectionery, nonalcoholic beverages, and mineral waters declined in a considerable number of regions.

In such a situation, it is naive to expect an abundance of goods after price liberalization. There is simply nothing with which to fill the shelves of the food shops—even at the new prices.

'Discouraging' Production, Population Figures

LD0702183592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian State Statistics Committee has published discouraging figures on January production in comparison with the same month last year. Coal production was down 12 percent, oil 15 percent, and, as an example, footwear was down 33 percent. Here is another new factor. In 42 areas [territoriya] in Russia, encompassing two-thirds of the population, by the end of 1991 the number of deaths exceeded the number of births. The population is declining in absolute terms. The number of people living in Russia will evidently decrease this year as well.

USSR Foreign Economic Relations Maintained

OW0802160992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX] Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Council Yuriy Voronin stated that Russia intends to appeal to the former Soviet republics to jointly discuss a wide range of problems on foreign economic relations. He noted that the parliament and the government along with the Russian Central Bank are seeking to maintain all foreign economic relations of the former Soviet Union in order to use them under the new conditions.

At the same time, Voronin emphasized that given the acute character of the problem, Russia assumes responsibility for assets and liabilities of the former Soviet Union until the republics take a final decision on the issue.

As IF's correspondent learned from a well-informed source, the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Council is expected to adopt a resolution on measures to stabilize the financial plight of foreign banks which have formed their capitals using means of the former Soviet Union. The resolution will charge the government and the Russian Central Bank with urging competent organizations of the former Soviet Union to take part in mobilization of means in rubles and hard currency to stabilize the financial situation of these foreign banks.

Shakhray Explains Administrative Role

PM1002091192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by Sergey Shakhray, Russian state counselor for legal policy; "What the State-Legal Administration Is"]

[Text] False rumors have appeared in the press about the Russian president's State-Legal Administration; people are bothered by the name—GPU [State-Legal Administration; these were also the initials of a Stalin-era secret police organization]. A simple coincidence of initials is hardly serious grounds for far-reaching conclusions and generalizations. For instance, it does not occur to anybody to draw a parallel between the abbreviated title of the parliamentary Committee for Legislation—KPZ—and the well known militia establishment [KPZ also stands for pretrial detention cell].

So what exactly is the GPU? The State-Legal Administration does not adopt decisions that state organs and citizens are bound to implement. The administration elaborates **recommendations** and options for decisions **for the president** or gives its findings on draft normative acts submitted to the president by other organs or officials. It takes a lot of imagination (or a sick one) to fail to see the difference between an organ of state management and essentially an expert analytical component of the president's apparatus.

No state calls into question the right of the state's top official to have competent expert analytical and organizational services. The strengthening of legal principles in the system of executive power can irritate only those who would like to continue to live not according to the law but according to the all too familiar "instructions."

The State-Legal Administration, without encroaching on anybody's competence, has the advantages of not being part of a department, of having a scientific approach, and of having a broad vision of the whole complex of problems, which must at long last be resolved in a civilized fashion, within the framework of legal procedures. This is precisely the purpose for which the "terrible GPU" was created.

I don't think the functions of a department for ensuring the president's legislative prerogatives (legislative initiative, veto) require special explanations. Incidentally, neither individual ministries nor the government as a whole possess the right to submit draft laws to the Supreme Soviet. Understandably, under the president there must be a structure preparing such drafts. This structure is not bound by departmental interests, which are something no ministry can avoid. Obviously, the text of any act, including the text of a law, must undergo expert legal assessment before it is signed by the president.

A department for expert legal assessment has been formed to evaluate the juridical strength of draft normative government documents. The departments for state awards, for citizenship questions, and for pardons have always existed and passed from the charge of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium to the president's jurisdiction on the basis of the RSFSR law of 24 April 1991.

When he submitted to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet the concept for judicial reform in the RSFSR elaborated by a group of independent experts, B.N. Yeltsin not only stressed the importance of reviving the judiciary as an independent influential force but also adopted certain pledges. Unfortunately, the fundamental acts approved by parliament relating to the transformation of Russian justice (the Laws on the RSFSR Constitutional Court, on the Court of Arbitration in the RSFSR, and on the abolition of the most odious articles of the Criminal Code making economic initiative an offense), like the concept for judicial reform itself, incidentally, were prepared without the active participation of the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice. I will not venture to judge what prevented it from being the initiator and competent performer of this work, but it seems to me logical to have decided to create a supradepartmental department for judicial reform within the GPU. It is headed by Candidate of Juridical Sciences S.A. Pashin, who is personally involved in the elaboration of the above documents. We agree with him that the reform of judicial administration and judicial procedure must proceed in accordance with the concept supported by the people's deputies and that the Ministry of Justice and other law enforcement departments can make their contribution to supporting the planned transformations.

As for the department for questions of collaboration with representative and executive organs of power, it has a specific job to do given the separation of powers. Though the legislator, the judge, and the administrator are autonomous, this does not mean they are isolated. Collaboration is not diktat, but mutual influence which in fact constitutes the system of checks and balances. When the weights, pointer, and pans of a balance do not "collaborate," you can throw the instrument in the trash.

At present in Russia over two dozen structures engage to some extent or other in lawmaking in the spheres of defense, security, and law enforcement organs, and these structures work in an uncoordinated fashion, often pulling in opposite directions. So the main tasks of the department of law enforcement organs and security and defense questions are to coordinate work on questions of the normative regulation of activity in these spheres, prepare conclusions regarding normative acts sent in for the president's signature, organize juridical and special expert assessment of them, and certain others.

Thus while spheres of activity coincide with certain state organs, the State-Legal Administration has its own special functions in these spheres. Although sometimes even duplication of functions is advisable: The most dynamic and competent institution will survive in the competitive struggle. Thus when Peter I created collegiums he did not abolish the old departments (staging posts, criminal affairs, and others) which had borne the burden of state administration and had not yet outlived their usefulness.

Nor has the formation of the GPU imposed an additional burden on the budget, it is not so much a new structure as an amalgamation of components which existed earlier beneath the auspices of the Russian president. Incidentally, the wages of GPU personnel are no higher and on average are even lower than wages in the apparatus of the president and the Supreme Soviet.

In my view, the executive branch can be more interested than others in ensuring that adopted laws are effective. Especially laws guaranteeing people's right to life, freedom, and property. However, their role is reduced by nonimplementation and even sabotage. Citizens lose faith in the seriousness of their elected representatives' promises unless they can exercise the rights proclaimed by the latter: to obtain land, to acquire their own enterprise, to live in a privatized apartment.

The problem of nonimplementation of laws is a real one, and in order to solve it the GPU has prepared a draft law "On Liability for Nonimplementation of Russian Federation Legislation." This document envisages liability for the commission of specific **premeditated** actions (the issue of an order, the commission of a deal) or inaction in defiance of the direct prescription of the law. If this law is adopted there will be hope of strengthening law and order. As for the Russian justice minister's remarks published in a recent issue of IZVESTIYA, I consider it my duty to stress that I have no knowledge of the draft law subjected to spirited criticism by N.V. Fedorov and in its title and content it has little in common with that elaborated in the State-Legal Administration. But overall the appearance of criticisms shows that a normal process of drafting legislation in an atmosphere of glasnost is under way.

A few decades ago the chairman of the Russian State Duma complained that he was "bowed down with the weight of the State Duma." I would like the State-Legal Administration, now that it has assumed some of the burden of preparing the president's decisions, to ensure that those decisions are juridically irreproachable.

Democrats Protest Against KGB 'Sleepers'

LD0902234692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The Political Council of the Coalition of Moscow's Democratic Forces has lodged a protest against the presence of KGB sleepers in the officially registered democratic parties and organizations. The authors of the statement also refer to an interview given by Sevastyanov to the NOVOYE VREMYA magazine. The statement contains a demand that the Russian authorities immediately recall KGB agents from the officially registered parties and movements. People guilty of carrying out destructive work in democratic organizations, following the events of August 1991, must be dismissed from their posts. If the authorities refuse, the Moscow organizations of the Russian democratic parties will insist that their parties withdraw their support for the current government, says the document.

New Culture Minister Sidorov Appointed

LD0702191692 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Svistunova]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree appointing Yevgeniy Sidorov, 53, Russian minister of culture.

Sidorov refused to talk to a TASS correspondent, saying he hasn't done anything yet as minister and there is nothing to talk about.

He stressed, however, that "the ministry should determine the national policy in the sphere of culture, while art people and writers should participate in the creation of a national idea".

The minister described as senseless attempts to adopt a law on culture, adding that such a law can be compared to a decree prescribing birds to sing and plants to blossom.

After graduation from the juridical department of the Moscow State University in 1962, Sidorov began working as a journalist with the newspaper MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS and then LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (LITERARY GAZETTE) and the magazine YUNOST (YOUTH).

Sidorov is the author of seven books and rector of the literary institute where he is teaching a course of literary criticism.

Defense Ministry Decree Prepared for Yeltsin

OW0702144892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decree has been prepared, but not yet signed by President Yeltsin, to establish a Russian Defense Ministry, said Lieutenant-General Viktor Samoylov, military construction department chief of the Russian Federation counsellor defense service, in an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX]. The decree scraps Russia's State Committee for Defense Issues headed by Colonel-General Pavel Grachev.

Samoylov also said that work had started on laws on the defense of the Russian Federation, status of servicemen, mandatory military service and the organization of military service in Russia. The Russian Defense Ministry should not have more than a 350-man staff—a standard for Russian ministries, says Samoylov. With a 1 million-strong army, it must not have more than 150,000 commissioned officers, said the general. The commissioned officer corps is to be reduced 5 or 6 times during 6 to 7 years, said Samoylov.

General Killed in Lipetsk MiG-29 Crash 7 Feb

LD0802121492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1113 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—ITAR-TASS has been informed by the main headquarters of the Air Force that a MiG-29 plane crashed 55 km southeast of Lipetsk, in central Russia, on 7 February during a routine training flight. Major General Sulambek Oskanov, chief of the Lipetsk Air Force flight personnel training center, merited military specialist, and master of sports for advanced aerobatics, who was on board the plane, was killed.

A special commission of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces, headed by Maj. Gen. Yuriy Gerasimov, chief of the directorate for the investigation of flying incidents, has been set up following the disaster. It commenced work today.

Rutskoy Visits Crash Site

LD0902134592 Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[Text] Lipetsk February 34 ITAR-TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, accompanied by a group of Air-Force officers, arrived in Lipetsk today to see for himself the place where Major-General of the Air-Force, commander of the Lipetsk military garrison Sulambek Oskanov died in a plane crash on February 7 during a training flight.

Aleksandr Rutskoy had served in Lipetsk proir to his tour of duty in Afghanistan, and had repeatedly flown with Oskanov, a pilot of the highest class.

The causes of the accident are being investigated by a special commission.

Krasnoyarsk Radar Station Construction Ends

LD0902015792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0350 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] We now return to one of the first sensations of perestroyka. A few years ago, the world's news agencies reported on a top-secret installation in Siberia, a gigantic space surveillance station, the so-called Krasnoyarsk radio communications station [radiolineynaya stantsiya]; it was established as a counter-balance to the American Star Wars program. After lengthy negotiations, a political decision was taken to stop construction of the station.

But what next? What is the future for this installation, in whose construction hundreds of millions of robles have already been invested? Our correspondent in Krasnoyarsk Kray, Yuriy Sisoyev, is at the station now and is on the line:

[Sisoyev] This is the first time that a Mayak correspondent has been admitted to the former top-secret installation, so I will hasten to tell you what is happening here at this moment. Although it has been two years since the (?Krasnoyarsk) radar surveillance station was handed over to the civilian SibirEnergo joint-stock company, I can now understand why the military have not allowed journalists to enter before.

I am sitting in what used to the office of the site's clerk of works. All around, covering hundreds of hectares of tayga, are the ruins of the former military installation of the Krasnoyarsk Radar Station. By the way, Krasnoyarsk is only its conventional name. It is further north, on the territory of Yeniseyskiy Rayon.

The picture all around gives a depressing and nightmarish impression. We seem to be in the middle of a set for a fantasy film about a battle with spacemen. But, unfortunately this is not a film set. The whole gigantic site of the radar station looks as if it has just suffered an air raid. It is not just the main blocks that have been destroyed but also the housing and even the kindergarten. The military department is continuing this barbarous process of destruction even now. From the windows of clerk's office I can see the military construction units destroying yet another building at this moment.

Yeniseyskiy Rayon Executive Committee has on several occasions appealed to the Defense Ministry, to Shaposhnikov, and to the government of Russia to cease the destruction of civilian buildings. But they receive only silence in reply. You know, it is difficult to calculate the damage which the military has done and is still doing to the land of Yenisey Rayon. Just imagine a production area equal in size to the Moscow University buildings on the Lenin Hills. Now these ferro-concrete boxes are being razed to the ground with pneumatic drills and bulldozers.

Yensiseyskiy Rayon Executive Committee tearfully begged—to no avail—that at least the bottom five stories should be left intact and that these buildings should be used to accommodate a furniture combine and that the combine's workers should be housed in the townlet. According to the most modest estimates, as a result of such a conversion the tayga inhabitants and, by the way, all of us, are losing construction components, main services and housing worth over 500 million rubles.

That is the situation now on the former Krasnoyarsk Radar Station military installation for space surveillance. Its fate must be resolved, and most urgently. Otherwise everything will be razed to the ground and that will be the end of it. Then you will not find out who was right or who was wrong. I am sorry that your correspondent has come on the air with such alarming news this morning. But that is life.

[Announcer] I find it difficult to know what to call this site. There are construction sites, there were great...

[Sisoyev] It is a construction site.

[Announcer] No, I was going to say that there used to be great construction sites of socialism and communism but this is a great destruction site.

Yeltsin Decree Said 'Incapable of Execution'

PM0702150592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 92 p 1

[Yu. Sorokin report: "Wanted: Plenipotentiaries for Insignificant Secrets, Or What the 'Secret' Decree Could Mean"]

[Text] In January the Russian president signed a decree on the protection of state secrets. I understand that it is not Boris Nikolayevich himself who composes these decrees, but someone occupying other rungs of the state ladder. And this "someone"—who, it must be admitted, at times looks like a perfectly reasonable person—on this occasion has come up with something not altogether intelligible.

Indisputably, a state secret should be kept. I would even say that it should be revived as a concept, since it seems that there are no secrets left in our country, and state functionaries are scratching for the last dollars for last remaining secrets like photographs of the nuclear briefcase.

But we hardly need to return to 1985 in order to defend the state's interest; and the president's decree admits of just such an interpretation. The decree instructs the security organs to coordinate the work of protecting secrets, to set up special departments in enterprises and institutions for this purpose, and, in places where the secrets are "insignificant," to appoint special people to the task (may I introduce the new member of personnel—the plenipotentiary for insignificant secrets). In addition, according to the decree, this army of specially appointed people should be guided by "previously adopted normative acts" with regard to state secrets.

It obviously goes without saying that previous acts on the procedure for handling state secrets corresponded to the old totalitarian state, and as a minimum they will contradict the already adopted Law on the Press, several resolutions by the former USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee, already existing draft laws on the protection of state secrets and on archive material, and so on. What does being guided by "previously adopted acts" mean?

This could be interpreted literally (and it is well known that no interpretation of a legal text, apart from the literal one, should be admitted).

Does this mean that we should revive the system of total censorship in the mass media, return the tens of thousands of censors to their former workplaces, and once more set up the gigantic administration of Glavlit [Main Administration for Safeguarding State Secrets in the Press]?

Should 80 percent of the archives be closed immediately, the status of restricted access be restored in all libraries, and millions of documents be banned from free reading?

Should live broadcasts be withdrawn on television and radio?

Should the opening and reading of correspondence be reinstituted at postal departments for foreign and army mail?

Should we restore departmental censors (institutions parallel to Glavlit in the Army and in all ministries and state committees)?

Should tight control over the travel of citizens abroad be reinstituted, so as not to accidentally allow the exodus of tens of thousands of military installation scientists and workers?

Should the free exchange of information in science and the economy be stopped, and, accordingly, all planned scientific conferences be canceled, and exchanges closed?

In tourist groups traveling abroad, should the status of "supernumerary assistant group leader" be introduced...?

Moreover, should an additional amount of several billion rubles be found in the Russian budget to pay for all this?

I assume that the authors of the text of the decree have proposed nothing of the sort. But it is entirely possible (and this time on a legal basis) for some specific executor to "propose" all this.

I should say that this document, which was conceived deep inside the apparatus, is simply inept—obviously owing to the congenital ineptitude of any bureaucratic creation. But the very tendency of this ineptitude is indicative. I should say that all these measures are simply incapable of execution. But experience, unfortunately, suggests that all bureaucratic apparatuses have always managed two things remarkably well: Banning and forbidding.

Khasbulatov Plans Tyumen, Surgut Working Tour

LD0902040192 Moscow TASS in English
1806 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—A regular working tour of the Republic by chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov begins on Monday [10 February]. This time he will visit Tyumen and Surgut.

"Tyumen was chosen because of the need for starting a direct dialogue with oil producers and looking for ways to overcome a deep crisis of the oil industry, which continues to be the main source of hard currency revenues," Anatoliy Milyukov, head of the recently created analytical-expert group in the apparatus of the chairman of the Russian parliament, told ITAR-TASS. According to Milyukov, the continuing decline in oil production is fraught with most serious implications for the Russian economy. According to some estimates, Russia will have to import oil in the forthcoming years.

Khasbulatov's participation in the work of a regional trade union conference on social and economic problems of the northern region, due to be held in Surgut, will be another highlight of the visit. Trade union leaders obviously know the situation and feelings of working people better than anybody else. The success of the economic reform will depend a great deal on the stand assumed by trade unions during its initial, most difficult stage, Milyukov stressed.

Last 10 Political Prisoners Set Free

LD0702173592 Moscow TASS in English
1652 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Russia's last ten political prisoners, serving in the famous Perm colony (Urals), were set free on Friday [7 February], ITAR-TASS was told by the Russian Interior Ministry. All of them were pardoned by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on January 30, 1992.

The ministry said that three, Dolzhikov, Konoval and Fedotkin, former servicemen, were sentenced by the military tribunal for "treason". Konoval and Fedotkin were involved in a hijacking.

Popov, 38, was accused of "illegally going abroad" and "stopping a train without valid reason", for which he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Unlike the camp veterans, 38-year-old Kutsenko and 65-year-old Chernov have been only 18 months in it.

The ministry said that Pavlov spent eight years out of the total 15 years and Potashov six. Makarov was sent to the camp five years ago "for treason and divulging a state secret". Yuzhin has been in the camp for six years.

Dovlatov, 36, from Tajikistan, was not included in the list. In 1989 he was sentenced for "treason, illegally going abroad and swindling" and sentenced to eight years in prison. The Supreme Court of Tajikistan changed Dovlatov's regime from strict to general regime. At Dovlatov's request, he was sent to Tajikistan to serve the sentence there.

Information Minister Interviewed on Approach

LD0602110292 Moscow TASS in English
0919 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris February 6 TASS—"The allegations that we are reducing the scope of democracy is nothing but disinformation", Russian minister of press and information said in an interview with LE FIGARO on Wednesday [5 February]. Poltoranin said his ministry was made to safeguard the interests of the "fourth power" [the mass media], without which no democracy is possible.

According to Poltoranin, over 1,700 new independent non-government publications, about the same number of publishing houses, dozens of TV and radio stations, independent news agencies have appeared since the ministry was founded during the perestroika. All of them operate under favourable conditions, Poltoranin said. 780 million rubles were allocated last year from the state budget in form of non-interest credits to support them.

But we cannot support all, he said. Priority is given to provincial publications, such as those in Asian Russian territories, where the necessary infrastructure is underdeveloped.

Touching upon the conflict with RIA-NOVOSTI news agency, Poltoranin said Yeltsin decree is intended to demonopolise information. There is no future in preserving the two government news agencies as there no means for that. But RIA-NOVOSTI, which was initially created as a non-government independent news agency, kept on asking for budget allocations until now.

Criticisms of the government's Bolshevist approach towards mass media are irresponsible, Poltoranin said. They mostly stem from personal ambitions, he added. According to Poltoranin, his ministry envisaged to establish state orders for paper-producing enterprises to keep the level of its production high and prices low. Money was also allocated to Ministry of Communications to halt growth of newspaper prices which would otherwise tripple because of high delivery costs.

Talking about privatisation of mass media, Poltoranin said it is necessary to adopt a law on intellectual property first. The draft law will probably be submitted for parliamentary discussion this March.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Offers Distribution Deal

PM0702160592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed announcement: "We Do Not Invite Underachievers! Or, Who Will Help To Distribute KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

[Text] As our regular readers already know, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA costs them 1.20 ruble [R] at "Soyuzpechat" newsstands in Moscow. The new price, which was literally dictated to us, was set recently. But it is still difficult to buy the newspaper, and its circulation in the capital is limited.

Our regular readers—servicemen, "afgantsy" and "chernobyltsy," veterans, front-line soldiers, servicemen's parents—do not wish to part with their newspaper. Many are offering to help in distributing KRASNAYA ZVEZDA as an alternative to "Soyuzpechat," which is asking quite exorbitant prices. Unfortunately, there is still no organization in the former USSR that could compete with this monopolist.

Now about the main point. As of Monday 10 February, we propose that all who so wish, our voluntary helpers, join in an experiment to distribute KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Moscow's streets and squares, in the subway, and at stations.

So, representatives of the publishing house and the editorial office await you, our voluntary helpers, from 1900 through 2000 hours every day at the central entrance to the editorial office at this address: 38, Khoroshevskoye Road (not far from "Begovaya" subway station). All that is required is your desire to distribute the newspaper, and a small sum of money.

A distributor will be able to acquire KRASNAYA ZVEZDA at R0.40 below the "Soyuzpechat" newsstand price (for a four-page issue). In addition, the publishing house will offer the purchaser TOMORROW'S ISSUE of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA! Accordingly, he will sell the newspaper if not that evening, then the next day. For young people especially this is a first opportunity to enter into small-scale business (however, we do not invite underachievers!).

THE PRICE OF THE NEWSPAPER TO DISTRIBUTORS OF A FOUR-PAGE ISSUE: R20 for 25 copies, R40 for 50, and so on.

ON SATURDAYS KRASNAYA ZVEZDA comes out with eight pages, with the television schedule, and can be bought at "Soyuzpechat" newsstands even for R1.80. But we will offer this issue to distributors for R1.20.

Telephone inquiries: 941-21-95, 941-19-57.

We are also planning alternative distribution of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in other cities. We await your offers.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Plans Appeal To Help Banks Abroad

OW0902185392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Russia is planning an appeal to republics of the former USSR on Monday [10 February] to mobilize ruble and hard-currency funds to stabilize the financial position of Soviet banks located abroad, banks which were founded primarily with capital from the former Soviet Union.

Assistant chairman of the Russian parliament Yuriy Voronin told INTERFAX that Moscow will propose that the republics hold joint discussions on problems surrounding foreign economic relations. Mr. Voronin said that the republic's government and the Central Bank of Russia are already working on ways to maintain all of the former USSR's external economic ties by transferring them to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Due to the heatedness of the issue, Mr. Voronin explained that Russia is willing to accept "all responsibility for the assets and liabilities of the USSR's external economic ties" until all the republics come to a joint decision.

Presidium To Draft Chechen Resolution

OW0902171592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] As IF [INTERFAX] has learned, the presidium of Russia's parliament intends to hold a closed-door session on Monday [10 February] to consider the situation in the Chechen Republic. The draft resolution on this issue includes a number of recommendations for the government. However, as a well-informed source told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, "considering the latest developments in Groznyy the draft is to be made more radical".

Meeting Planned With Chechen Officials Denied

LD0702174992 Moscow TASS in English 1656 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 ITAR-TASS—The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Vice Chairman Yuriy Yarov refuted a report recently published in the IZVESTIYA newspaper from Groznyy about the alleged "meeting in the near future between delegations of Russian parliament and the Chechen Republic", in which "questions regarding mutual recognition of the two states will be discussed".

At a press conference held today in the "White House" he said, one can talk of only a meeting of the experts' groups from both sides, which could together work out proposals acceptable to both sides about the venue of the talks and composition of the delegations, in order to "conduct negotiations in a qualified manner to find ways to a political solution of the problems that have emerged".

Journalists were aquainted with the letters which were exchanged between Yuriy Yarov and a leader of the Chechen parliament. Their contents testify that both sides have not rejected their respective approaches to find a solution to the situation that has emerged. "If in Groznyy they are prepared to hold talks as well, then let us go ahead in search for ways of joint solutions", emphasised the vice chairman of the Russian parliament. And for this, it is necssary first of all, to hold a meeting of working groups, he said.

Yuriy Yarov informed the newsmen, a second letter will be despatched to Chechen-Ingush today, but did not reveal its contents. He noted: "Life demands negotiation process should start."

7 Feb Supreme Soviet Proceedings Reported

LD0702222592

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1820 GMT on 7 February carries its regular "At the Russian Supreme Soviet Session" program of recorded highlights of the proceedings at the 7 February Supreme Soviet session in Moscow.

Khasbulatov opens proceedings, and Vladimir Sergeyevich Zakharov stands on the rostrum and speaks about land reform and legislation. He says the law on payments for land was adopted last October. It now needs a number of amendments. Zakharov explains these amendments. Khasbulatov asks if deputies support them.

At 1824 GMT an unidentified deputy objects. Zakharov explains who would stand to gain from the amendments.

At 1826 GMT deputy Goryachev puts forward the case for pensioners. It will be a political mistake not to heed their interests. The unidentified announcer says that the amendments were returned for more work.

At 1828 GMT deputy Shakhray takes the rostrum. He speaks on a short draft law drawn up in response to a request from Yeltsin. The law concerns the president's legislative initiative. Shakhray asks deputies to debate the issue. Deputy Mityukov supports the draft from the floor. He says the draft should be called a decision, not a law. Khasbulatov insists it should be a law. The law is passed: 101 in favor, none against.

At 1831 GMT Mityukov takes the rostrum to talk about a package of further laws concerning the president's legislative initiative. He recalls the episode of the new Russian Security Ministry on which Yeltsin was forced to back down. Mityukov talks about the president's powers to appoint members of the government. Under the bill, members of the government will no longer be allowed to be members of the Supreme Soviet. It is not the intention of the bill to disqualify the president's heads of administration in local areas. Some changes to articles of the Constitution, specifically Article 92, are involved. Mityukov recommends that a decision be adopted on the issue.

At 1840 GMT deputy Vinogradova from Novosibirsk, representing Free Russia movement, asks how many deputies will be disqualified. Is this a first step toward depriving the Supreme Soviet and Congress of a quorum? Mityukov reads the names of members of the government, including Shakhray, who would be disqualified. The prosecutor-general is not affected.

At 1843 GMT Shakhray recommends that members of the government should cease to be members of the Supreme Soviet, once appointed. This is a compromise suggestion. Khasbulatov calls an end to the debate and asks for a vote on the procedure as explained by Mityukov. It is passed: 137 in favor, 32 against.

At 1845 GMT, Yuriy Sergeyev, chairman of subcommittee on ecology, speaks from the rostrum about a draft law on mineral resources. An unidentified deputy calls for more consultation and coordination. Khasbulatov says proposed amendments will take too long to discuss.

At 1847 GMT, deputy Zhigurin suggests that the Soviet of the Republic discuss the amendments on Wednesday. More suggestions about future debates are put forward. A vote on his proposal is taken: 164 in favor, three against.

The program ends at 1848 GMT.

Fails To Agree on Land Payment Law

LD0702163692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This morning's session of the Russian parliament returned again to the law on payment for land. The payment norms previously adopted on 1 January this year have brought many comments, mainly from on the spot. Taking into account the amendments sent, the Supreme Soviet has decided to introduce amendments and additions to that law. The essence of the proposals made by the government and the Supreme Soviet committee is to introduce preferential payments at a rate of 3 percent for dachas or garages within city or settlement limits, and a tax on land for agricultural use, personal auxiliary plots, and gardening societies within city or settlement limits. It is established as one kopeck for a square meter. However, again the deputies could not reach a unanimous decision. It has been decided to send the draft law back for further work and to return to the adoption of it at the evening session. Yesterday the Russian parliament opted for the preservation of the Black Sea Fleet as a single entity, and the relevant decision was adopted.

Discusses Article 92

LD0702191192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Correspondent A. Goncharov video report]

[Excerpts] The Russian Supreme Soviet is today discussing a package of draft laws submitted by the Committee for Legislation. As became clear in the course of the discussion, the decision on the use of Article 92 of the Constitution is seen as significant. The article establishes that persons who are members of the Russian Government cannot serve as people's deputies, and that the powers of the people's deputies who have been appointed members of the government will be terminated ahead of schedule.

What this actually amounts to is compliance with the principle of the separation of executive and legislative power, a principle which was being called into question after a number of deputies had been appointed to government posts. [passage omitted]

Voting on the decision will take place after the break.

Adopts Bill on Executive Appeals

LD0702182392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1111 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Supreme Soviet, at a joint session of its chambers today, adopted a bill on the procedure for examining appeals to parliament by the republic's president.

New clauses have been added to the standing orders of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. In essence, the examination in parliament of draft laws, legislative proposals, and other appeals presented by the president will begin with a statement by an official representative of the head of state providing grounds for the need to adopt such a draft. After the findings of the corresponding parliamentary committees and commissions have been heard, the president's representative will duly be given an opportunity to express his agreement or disagreement with remarks made on the presidential draft or appeal.

Sergey Shakhray, deputy prime minister and state adviser on legal questions, who spoke on Boris Yeltsin's behalf, stressed that such an approach will undoubtedly ease interactions between the president and parliament and will help to head off possible confrontations between representative and executive power.

Debates Executive, Soviet Draft Laws

LD0702215392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Although it may be putting it a bit strongly, Radio Liberty believes that Boris Yeltsin, upon returning from France, could face the problem of his powers being reduced to the level of those of the Italian president, for instance. The radio is referring to draft laws which are under discussion in the Russian parliament. The first could limit the president's veto and the second could give parliament the right to affirm the Cabinet of Ministers.

[Correspondent A. Goncharov] Political passions raged in the Russian Supreme Soviet today as debates took place over laws under which the president could from now on appoint ministers and other cabinet members only with the agreement of the Supreme Soviet. Similar agreement would also be required for the creation of government institutions. The approval of these proposals would effectively limit the powers the president has received for the period of reform. The Supreme Soviet chairman did not conceal his position:

[Begin Ruslan Khasbulatov recording] I am telling you that there is a clear thrust toward conflict and weakening the authority of the Supreme Soviet on the part of certain people, people surrounding our president, of course. This partly explains the situation as well as the leakage of our key personnel into the executive structure. [end recording]

[Goncharov] There was also another point of view.

[Begin unidentified deputy recording] In today's extremely critical situation this package is geared not just to undermining the position and authority of parliament; in the final analysis it will drastically undermine the position and authority of the executive power. [end recording]

[Goncharov] As a result, the disputed draft laws were sent back for further amendment. The second reading of the draft law on underground resources was also postponed because deputies did not believe that it took into account the interests of the autonomous regions.

Sets Up Control, Budget Committee

*LD0702210492 Moscow TASS in English
2018 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation created a Control and Budget Committee. This decision was taken today at the joint sitting of the two chambers of parliament.

The activity of the committee which is attached to parliament and independent of the government and the president's apparatus, will be regulated by a special law. Over the period of its formation it will be guided by a temporary statute to be approved by deputies.

Today the parliament also adopted a law "On protection of consumers' rights" which will regulate relations between consumers and entrepreneurs. This legislative act establishes the rights of customers and clients, in other words—rights of all of us for safety of goods, works and services and their proper quality, as well as information on commodities and their manufacturers, and determines the mechanism of excercising consumers' rights.

Postpones Security Bill Reading

*OW0802051392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1935 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament has put off until next week the second reading of the security bill, following a request from the Defence and Security Committee of the Supreme Soviet.

The chairman of the sub-committee on security, Nikolay Kuznetsov, has told IF [INTERFAX] that the debates were put off because the bill had to be amended in keeping with proposals voiced by both law-makers and government members. Kuznetsov said the proposals concerned the concept, functions and procedure of forming the Security Council.

Reiterates Chechen Negotiations Offer

*OW0802040092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1623 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Yuriy Yarov told journalists today that he sent a second letter to Husayn Akhmedov, chairman of the Chechen parliament, on February 7. The letter contains a repeated offer for negotiations between Russia and the Chechen Republic. As in his first letter, sent to Groznyy on January 21, Yarov proposes that the talks be held in one of the following cities: Groznyy, Moscow, Nalchik, St. Petersburg, or Sochi.

Judging by Akhmedov's answer to the first letter none of the proposed cities suit. The Chechen Republic had named Kiev as the city to host the talks, citing "unconditional mutual political acknowledgement" as their condition.

Decree on Pension Funds Sent to Yeltsin

*LD0702192492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1530 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A draft decree on state and private pension funds which was already approved by the Russian Government has been sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin for signing. Ella Pamfilova, minister of social protection for the population of the republic, reported this information in an interview with an INTERFAX correspondent. According to Pamfilova, the decree provides that the state will not be the only body dealing with pensions; enterprises in all sectors of the economy will be able to set up and direct their own pension funds.

Joint Resolution on Taxation Signed 3 Feb

PM0702161092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

["Resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Russian Federation Government on Social Protection of the Population and on Rectifying the Regulation of Pricing for Certain Types of Output," signed by S.A. Filatov and G.E. Burbulis, Moscow, 3 February 1992]

[Text] In accordance with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet instruction of 24 January 1992, with a view to the social protection of the population and the rectification of price regulation for essential food products and the output of monopoly enterprises in the conditions of the initial stage of the economic reform, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the Russian Federation Government resolve that:

1. The deduction of value-added tax from the income of public catering enterprises (student and school cafeterias, cafeterias of other educational establishments, hospitals, and preschool institutions, and other catering institutions and organizations in the sociocultural sphere financed from the budget) on products of their own production is to be abolished.

It is laid down that sums of value-added tax paid to suppliers for products, work, and services used by the aforesaid enterprises in the course of the manufacture and sale of products of their own production, are to count as production costs.

2. A value-added tax rate of 15 percent is set on sales to all consumers (except for enterprises carrying out industrial processing and industrial consumption) of flour, pasta and groat products, milk, kefir, curd cheese, and vegetable oil.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Economics and Finance, the Russian Federation State Tax Service, the Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures, the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office, the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, and organs of executive power of republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are to clamp down decisively on actions by economic entities and officials banned under Section 1 of Article 5 of the RSFSR Law "On Competition and the Restriction of Monopolist Activity on Commodity Markets," and are to take proceedings against them according to the procedure specified by legislation as follows:

—against economic entities (irrespective of forms of ownership) in accordance with Article 23 of the aforesaid law, with excess profit to be transferred to the budget, along with a fine of the same amount, without appeal;

—against officials of administrative organs and economic entities in accordance with Article 24 of the aforesaid Law. Furthermore, officials of administrative organs and economic entities are subject to administrative liability in the form of a fine, to be imposed through due legal process by a prosecutor's ruling.

4. The Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures is to define by 1 March of this year the specific scales and procedure for calculating the upper limit on profitability for the products of monopoly enterprises (the ratio of profit to prime cost).

5. The present resolution comes into effect from the moment of its adoption.

[Signed] First deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, S.A. Filatov

First deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, G.E. Burbulis. Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 3 February 1992

Regional Affairs

Internal Affairs Troops Attacked in Chechen

LD0702180992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1352 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Several dozen hooligans looking for weapons attacked a Russian Internal Affairs Ministry [MVD] internal affairs regiment arsenal on 6 February. Having crushed the guards and 30 local special purpose militia detachment [OMON] men serving with the guards, men who could not bring themselves to shoot to kill the attackers made their way into the arsenal. There is speculation that the big explosion and the ensuing fire were caused by the naked flames they used to illuminate the premises. The arsenal's roof collapsed, and explosions could be heard in the town for several hours.

The Chechen Republic MVD says preliminary reports indicate the attackers sustained casualties, more than 10 people. There were no casualties among the internal troops. An investigation into the circumstances of the attack has begun.

A different version of yesterday's events in Groznyy was given to an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the Russian MVD interior troops' press center, in Moscow. This version notes that the attack was not carried out on a Russian MVD internal affairs regiment but on a subunit of the republican OMON guarding a military village on President Dzhakhar Dudayev's instructions. A large group of armed people pushed aside the OMON servicemen using threats and force, broke open the doors to the storehouses, and carried away all the weapons and combat equipment kept there, including several armored personnel carriers and an amphibious tank. About 2,000 machine guns, automatic rifles, and pistols were seized.

The Russian MVD version says the servicemen did not participate in the events because the regiment was previously transferred to the Chechen Republic's jursidiction by a Dudayev decree. Regiment personnel were taken off duty, returned their weapons to the stores, and prepared for redeployment.

The Russian MVD has not reacted to the report about the explosion and the fatalities.

Groznyy Garrison Blamed for Attack

LD0702215192 Moscow TASS in English 2112 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuev]

[Text] Groznyy February 7 TASS—At least three hundred sub-machine-guns, machine-guns and pistols were looted in Thursday's [6 February] attack on a regiment of the interior forces in Groznyy (the capital of Chechen Republic, which declared its independence from Russia in the autumn of 1991).

Towards the evening a crowd of about 300-500 local residents destroyed the fencing of the military unit, guarded mainly by the local militia special task force (OMON), and forced entry into the arsenals. All attempts of the workers of law and order protection bodies arriving on the scene to stop the tyranny were in vain. To a certain degree the situation was brought under control by the National Guard Chief of the Staff Iles Arsanukayev, who with the help of his subordinates blocked the approaches to the militia unit. But, obviously, it was too late. A few hundred of the men were already playing the master in the arms stores, where not only guns, but antipersonnel mines were also kept. As a result of the explosion of the latter, the roof of the building crashed. A fire broke out, which could be extinguished today in the evening only. The exact number of casualties could not be ascertained. A committee of inquiry has just started work.

Chechen Republic's minister for information and press, Movladi Udugov, spoke on the local television in the evening today. On President Dzakhar Dudayev's instructions he declared, the tragedy "was provocated by officers of the Groznyy garrison with support of the special task forces".

Dudayev Granted Special Powers

LD0802184992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We just received an ITAR-TASS report which says that Chechen Republic President Dzhakhar Dudayev has been granted extraordinary powers. Parliament granted them because of a sharp deterioration in the situation in Groznyy following attacks on military units. We just learned that Groznyy garrison headquarters was attacked tonight. Reports are coming in of attacks on other military units on Chechen Republic territory. Republican President Dudayev claims that all these attacks are provocations by Russia's military leadership.

Meanwhile, the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces press center said today that groups opposed to the Chechen Republic Government continue to stage bandit attacks on CIS Armed Forces military units. Air defense units were attacked near Groznyy yesterday and today. Numerous armed gangs employed a truly savage and cynical method: They advanced on the military installations hiding behind women and children. The bandits stole over 1,000 weapons and 46 tonnes of ammunition. They barbarically plundered expensive materiel and equipment. Unfortunately, the Chechen leadership is not putting a stop to this arbitrary and lawless behavior, the statement issued by the CIS Armed Forces press center says. In this situation, the CIS Armed Forces command is making decisions and taking steps to evacuate the families of servicemen, who have, for all intents and purposes, become hostages to criminal actions.

Dudayev Declares State of Emergency

LD0902084292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] At the request of President Dzhakhar Dudayev, the parliament of the Chechen Republic has imposed a state of emergency [chrezvychaynoye polozheniye] in the republic for a month. This measure was taken in response to the deteriorating crime situation in Groznyy. For instance, yesterday armed persons attempted to seize the headquarters of the Groznyy garrison. They also surrounded military camps and tried to seize weapons depots. Deaths occurred in the clashes.

Army Regiment Raided; 20 Killed

OW0902142592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] In Groznyy last night a raid was launched on the cantonment of the Soviet army's motorized infantry regiment located in the south-east of the Chechen capital. An exchange of fire between National Guardsmen guarding the cantonment and the unidentified attackers went on throughout the night. The servicemen took no part in it. As IF [INTERFAX] learned from the press service of the Chechen leader Dzhakar Dudayev, some 20 people were killed or wounded in the fire exchange. More exact information regarding the casualties will be given later.

In the past few days there have been several attempts to seize arms and military equipment belonging to interior ministry troops stationed in Chechen. On Saturday [8 February] the Chechen parliament granted President Dzhakar Dudayev extraordinary powers for 30 days in the course of which dozens of gangs that emerged locally are to be disarmed.

On Sunday [9 February] D. Dudayev told IF's correspondent that he views this as "obviously provocative attempts to involve the armed forces (of the former USSR) in a conflict with the local population. Such attempts are sponsored by the destructive forces abhorring the consolidation of society and a relaxation of tensions noted recently."

According to D. Dudayev, under the circumstances the armed forces of the former USSR stationed in Chechen and the local leadership, including the president and the parliament, are "on the same side of the barricade."

Police Units Said Moving Toward Groznyy

OW0902170692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] His agents report that columns of special police units (OMON) [special purpose militia detachment] are moving from North Ossetia and Dagestan in the direction of Groznyy, Movladi Udugov [name as received], chairman of the Chechen committee on information and the press, has told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent. Besides, there are reports that airborne troops are to land in the capital of Chechen Sunday [9 February] evening, "allegedly to protect servicemen and members of their families", K. Udugov said.

In Groznyy on Sunday [9 February], despite a heavy snowstorm, the supporters of D. Dudayev and Chechen's independence carried out a demonstration of protest against recent terrorist acts.

Dudayev Blames CIS Troops for Attacks

LD1002001792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Chechen Republic President Dzakhar Dudayev said that he warned Marshal Shaposhnikov a week ago about the possibility of provocations occurring in the Chechen Republic. He noted in his interview with Radio Rossii that his statements about the necessity of resolving, on a contractual basis, the problem of the Commonwealth of Independent States' [CIS] troops on republican territory remain unheeded. Moreover, Dudayev said, troops deployed on republican soil have provoked attacks on their posts.

According to RIA, General Dudayev's guards, for the third day, continued to storm the military base compound near Groznyy.

Situation in Groznyy Remains 'Tense'

LD1002034792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The situation in Groznyy remains tense. According to a report by the Agency for News and Information [Agentsvo Novosti i Informatsii—ANI], an air defense regiment cantonment, which is based at the edge of the city, was seized and pillaged by crowds [words indistinct] this morning. The attackers seized motor vehicles, missiles, mines, submachine guns, grenades and smashed expensive equipment.

An attack was carried out on a military rocket unit deployed near Groznyy in the village of Alkhan-Kala. However, the local population, which took it under their protection, rebuffed the attack.

Speaking on local television, President Dudayev said that the situation had been exacerbated and called upon the inhabitants of the city to support the government and the parliament and to join a rally on Freedom Square. By 9 February evening several thousand people had gathered there and condemned the actions of the gangs committing excesses and expressed the opinion that these acts were provoked by (?certain) audacious forces of Russia. [Word indistinct] the participants in the rally think that this is the result of the action of the opposition. Detachments of armed people were among those assembled at the rally.

(?Umal Tolsultanov), Chechen internal affairs minister, who was dismissed from his duties by the parliament, said that he knows the names of those who organized and took part in the armed acts. But representatives of parliament said they did not believe the minister.

An assembly of the elders and of representatives of the Moslem clergy of Chechnya is planned for tomorrow, 11 February. Measures to stabilize the sociopolitical situation in Groznyy will be discussed at the meeting.

Rallies Voice Opinions on Government, Leaders

LD0902180992 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 9 [dateline as received]—ITAR-TASS reported that opposite opinions regarding the Russian president and the Russian Government were expressed at rallies in Siberian cities. Thus, at a rally in Angarsk, some speakers condemned the Russian Government's market policy, while others expressed support for the Russian Government and President Yeltsin. The rally was organised by the Socialist Party of the Working People. It proclaimed itself the successor of the CPSU in that industrial city in Siberia.

Calls to withdraw support from the Russian Government were made at a rally in Krasnoyarsk held on the initiative of the Socialist Party of the Working People and the Russian Popular Union of the Krasnoyarsk Territory.

Demonstrators in Novosibirsk called for a rally by the city committee of the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the Council of Workers of the city demanded the government's resignation.

Speakers at a rally of supporters of "Trudovaya Rossiya" (Workers of Russia) Movement in Yekaterinburg in the Urals accused the government and democrats for the disintegration of the country and the army.

A rally in Chelyabinsk resulted in a confrontation between supporters of the movement "Trudovoy Chelyabinsk" which unites mostly parties of communist tendencies, on the one hand, and supporters of the "Free Urals" movement who intended to disrupt the communists' rally, on the other. The former demanded Yeltsin's resignation, the latter condemned partocrats.

ITAR-TASS correspondents note there was no unanimity in the attitude of Muscovites and people in other Russian cities to the rallies. Speakers in the square near the Russian parliament house said that 120,000 people gathered for their rally. The main interior agency for Moscow estimated the number of those present at the rally at around 30,000. The Russian Interior Ministry estimated the number of those who gathered for the rally in the Manezh Square and adjacent streets at 100,000.

From 100 to 500 people participated in rallies in other cities, according to ITAR-TASS. An ITAR-TASS correspondent in Krasnoyarsk remarked that there were more onlookers than participants in the rally in that city.

St. Petersburg Rally Opposes 'Splitting' Army

LD0902204692 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent John Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 9—Participants in a rally in St. Petersburg's Palace Square sharply criticised conversion and the process of splitting the army according to nationality and declared against the dissolution of the country and impoverishment of the people. Speakers, mostly officers, among them retired officers, called for the protection of the Kurils and the Crimea. They declared that the final destruction of the army as the last buttress of statehood should be prevented, that the disarmament of the army and the navy should be stopped.

Despite criticism and threats, not a single specific programme has been suggested at the rally which had the motto "The people and the army are united."

The rally was held at the call of the movement "The Leningrad Defence Committee," the Russian Communist Workers' Party and other public organisations.

Bryansk Rally Criticizes Commonwealth Leaders

LD0902174892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1450 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Lodkin]

[Text] Bryansk, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Those taking part in a rally in the Russian town of Bryansk today condemned the leaders of Belarus, Russia, and the Ukraine "for the unconstitutional collapse of a great commonwealth" in their address to the leaders of the three republics. They were sharply critical of the economic policy of the current Russian Government, which is leading to the impoverishment of the broad masses.

In an appeal to Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Supreme Soviet, those at the rally demanded the revocation of presidential decrees contradicting the Constitution of the republic and the use of the powers of the head of state "to establish order at production sites and to fight speculation, crime, and corruption."

The rally was organized by oblast organizations of the Socialist Workers' Party, the Committee of War and Labor Veterans, and the Committee of Women.

Smolensk Rally Demands Price Stablization

LD0902224192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The few people of Smolensk who gathered on the square today in response to a call from the Democratic Initiative public and political organization immediately spoke of the rally's anticommunist leaning. At the same time, they sharply criticized the actions of the apparatus of the oblast administrative head, which has been formed from democrats.

The main demand of those who gathered was stabilization of prices for staple food products and medicines at the level of the second half of 1991. The absence of slogans and placards bears out that those who came were passers-by. They were present out of curiosity and not out of conviction.

Greater organization was shown by the former communists. The day before they tried to legalize themselves into a political party called the Union of Communists of the Land of Smolensk and sent a delegation of their militants to Moscow to take part in today's rally.

Astrakhan Rally Demands Yeltsin Resignation

LD0902180292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By KOMSOMOLETS CASPIYA reporter Aleksandr Gadeyev]

[Text] Here is a report about a meeting held today in Astrakhan: Soviet people—children of the revolution—

who have lost the right to work gathered in Oktyabrskay Square. This is what one can make out from their slogans. They come from the Astrakhan section of the United Worker's Front and the Russian Workers' Movement, who held an all-town meeting within the march on the White House undertaken by the leftist forces. They gathered under such slogans as: Long live the heroic working class of the country of Soviets. No more than 100 people gathered. Signatures were collected demanding the resignation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Calls to bring to trial both Gorbachev and Yeltsin were applauded by very few. The meeting continued along the well-known path: Proletariat of all countries unite; the socialist fatherland is in danger. Similar statement were voiced. Demands were addressed to the Russian Government to suspend the law on privatization as contradictory to the existing legislation and the interests of the working collectives.

The meeting ended with the adoption of a resolution and the declaration of the creation of a committee for reducing prices in Astrakhan.

Rutskoy Calls For United, Indivisible Army

LD0902185592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1641 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[Text] Lipetsk, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"There are attempts now to split up the army and to make people take a second oath. This all bodes ill. The army must be united and indivisible," said Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in a short conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent about the fate of the army under the present conditions.

Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived in Lipetsk in central Russia to pay tribute to Suslambek Oskanov, head of the local military garrison, who died on 7 February during a training flight. He was of Ingush origin. The conversation spontaneously turned to the situation in the northern Caucasus. "Ingush people, Russians, and Chechens have always lived together. No one will give us another land and another homeland," noted Aleksandr Rutskoy. He spoke with concern about artificial borders that are being erected in order to separate people. "Unrest within a republic could end up a global catastrophe," warned the vice president.

Rutskoy previously served in Lipetsk and flew on many occasions with Oskanov, who was a top-notch pilot.

This evening Aleksandr Rutskoy departed for Moscow.

Kabardino-Balkaria Sets Up Republican Guard

LD0902165192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1525 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Supreme Soviet of Kabardino-Balkaria has announced the creation of a republican guard. A decree by republican President Valeriy Kokov notes that members will be drawn from citizens of the region on an internationalist basis. It is intended to include the guard in the unified structure of the Russian Federation National Guard.

The National Council of the Balkar People, however, has pronounced the presidential decree unconstitutional. It says the decree is aimed at the destabilization of the sociopolitical situation in the republic. In the council's view, the president of Kabardino-Balkaria issued the decree because of a decision of the congress of the Kabarda people "On the Establishment of a Republican Guard."

St. Petersburg Nuclear Reactor Unit Shut Down

LD0702180192 Moscow TASS in English 1731 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Krupenik]

[Text] Sosnovy Bor, Leningrad Region February 7 TASS—An unscheduled shutdown of one of the four nuclear reactor units occurred at the Leningrad nuclear power station at 13:00 on Thursday [6 February], ITAR-TASS learned.

The power plant director, Anatoliy Yeperin, told ITAR-TASS by telephone that there is no ground for concern. He said an updated reactor protection control system, installed after a capital rehaul, is highly sensitive and can be activated by the smallest fraction of deviation from the set parameters.

On Thursday, the system was triggered off by a slight drop in voltage at the rod input and the reactor was shut down automatically.

No damage to the equipment or violation of the safety standards was recorded. The radiation situation is normal.

The reactor is allowed a two-day time-out under the rules. The time will be used to ensure that no drops in voltage should occur again. The reactor will be restarted at noon on Saturday [8 February], forty-eight hours after the stoppage.

According to experts, the event at the Leningrad nuclear power station is graded as "a zero level danger on an international scale of events."

International Affairs

Formula for Repaying Union Debts Opposed

LD0702171792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting of heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] will be held in Moscow tomorrow. It is generally expected that an agreement will be concluded on settling economic relations between the Commonwealth states. In this connection ITAR- TASS reports: As has transpired from sources close to the Ukrainian leadership, the Ukrainian delegation will speak out against the formula, which suggests that all the Commonwealth states assume joint responsibility for repaying the debts of the former Union. The formula has been proposed by Russia and other members of the CIS, as well as most foreign creditors.

Note Sent to Russia on USSR Succession

LD1002100192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Ukraine sent a note to the Foreign Ministry of Russia which spells out the stand of Ukraine on issues pertaining to the right of succession of the former Soviet Union. It singles out that Ukraine, in accordance with the generally accepted norms of international law, has full rights and obligations, like all the other subjects of the former Soviet Union.

The aspiration of any state, reads the note of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine, to proclaim itself the only legal successor of the former Soviet Union or representative of the entire Commonwealth of Independent States is impossible and illegal.

Representative to Russia on Property Share

PM1002095592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Vladimir Krzhizhanovskiy, Ukrainian permanent representative to Russia, by Oleg Bondarenko; date and place not given: "Time To Divide Up the Stones..."]

[Text] In the Ukrainian parliament he represents "Rukh," in Moscow he represents his republic and its president. Vladimir Krzhizhanovskiy is the Ukrainian permanent representative to Russia. Together we discussed former Soviet property outside the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. There are embassies, consulates, trade missions, various other missions, housing, and corresponding plots of land in roughly 130 states. And the former republics of the former Union are striving to build their foreign policy independently, but this is only possible if there is a certain material base. Until recently this base had been created by joint efforts, now it will have to be divided up. But how?

[Krzhizhanovskiy] We believe that it is necessary above all to obtain detailed information about all property abroad. So far, managers from the former Union Foreign Ministry have supplied us with a limited list filling just five pages. Yet the number of installations runs into thousands. We are being assured that their residual book value is no more than $1.5-2 billion. But this, forgive me, is a fine way of calculating. There is a world of difference between original purchase prices and values today. It is common knowledge that property constantly tends to rise in value.

[Bondarenko] In short, is it time to divide things up?

[Krzhizhanovskiy] Yes. But this needs to be done in a very well-thought-out way, on the basis of consensus and goodwill between all the interested parties. It seems to me that it would be more correct to make each party's share identical to its share of the foreign debt—on which there is already an agreement. The Ukraine's share is 16.39 percent.

[Bondarenko] But how can these percentages be "applied" to property abroad?

[Krzhizhanovskiy] Take Indochina, for instance. It is a vast region of many states. However, the Ukraine's direct interests there are small, and the distance is huge. Consequently, my sovereign republic might be quite satisfied initially with a single diplomatic mission to cover the entire subcontinent. I do not think that the cost of such a mission would exceed the aforesaid 16.39 percent of the total value of Soviet property throughout Indochina. This means that in certain places we will take over buildings completely, but in neighboring countries we will not stake a claim to anything, but request that our interests there be represented by Russia or, for instance, Belarus.

The main thing is to ensure that we can really feel like masters in our foreign home, rather than being in the degrading position which the Ukrainian mission to the United Nations experienced for decades. Access to it was vigilantly controlled by men in green caps who were by no means subordinate to Kiev. Nonetheless, they unceremoniously decided who to allow to enter the mission and who to turn away.

As for the "Old World," since the Ukraine is a major European state, it would like to have effective relations with literally all countries. It is well known that the Soviet colonies in these countries were excessively large. Russia recently stated officially that it intends to considerably cut personnel at its foreign missions. It will probably also give up some of its premises.

[Bondarenko] Nonetheless, Kiev has been arguing that it is hard to agree anything with Moscow...

[Krzhizhanovskiy] There have been similar rumors coming from the other direction. Sometimes this arises out of confusion, and sometimes some people do provide grounds for it.

Incidentally, when the Russian democrats were in opposition to the Union authorities, we Rukh members—who were in a similar position—often met with them and easily found common ground. So can we really not arrive at a common denominator now that our joint potential is incomparably more important?

Our authorities approach ties with Russia very seriously. Ukraine's foreign policy is divided in two, as it were: relations with Russia and relations with the rest of the world. Both historically and economically Ukraine is tied to Russia by thousands of visible and invisible threads. It would be destructive for everyone to suddenly break them. Ultimately, we have one great complex task in common—reviving our national economies and raising people's living standards.

Questions Raised Concerning Iranian Gas Deal

OW0802162192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An agreement on Iranian oil and gas supplies to Ukraine signed in Kiev on January 29 raises many questions as to its economic feasibility, experts from the Russian fuel and energy ministry said in an IF [INTERFAX] interview. The agreement provides for construction of three pipelines from Iran through Azerbaijan.

However, it does not mention the installation of pipelines in the Russian territory as the optimal route for oil and gas pipelines from the Transcaucasia to the European part of the Commonwealth. Russia was not invited to be a signatory of the agreement.

The fuel and energy ministry could have considered supplying Ukraine with Russian gas in exchange for supplying southern regions of Russia with Iranian gas, IF's correspondent has learned. The current pipeline net of the Commonwealth could be used for these purposes. The ministry, however, would not have supported the idea of installing a new pipeline in the Russian territory.

The experts do not rule out that the agreement signed in Kiev may envisage in the long term Iranian gas exports to Western Europe through Ukraine. Iranian gas will then compete with that of Russia that is currently meeting 30% of West European needs in this fuel.

Arms Role 'Not Categorically Denied'

LD1002004292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 9 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast—read by announcer Mikhail Osokin]

[Text] A group of experts from Western Europe is going to the Ukraine to finalize a program of aid to the republic for restoring its power industry. Aid to Kiev is not coming only from the West, incidentally. The other day a $7 billion agreement was signed on the supply of oil and gas from Iran to the Ukraine. According to a BBC report, Ukrainian representatives have not categorically denied that arms could be part of the deal.

Parliament's Plyushch Visits European Council

LD0802152692 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] We have already reported that the Ukrainian delegation headed by Ivan Plyushch, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, is now at the European Council. The head of the delegation sent an appeal to Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, the chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, regarding giving the Ukraine the status of special guest—one which a number of Eastern European countries have. Representatives of the European Council received the appeal with understanding and supported his request.

Answering the question of the assembly members as regards the automatic legal succession of Russia concerning former USSR property abroad, Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch said that the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine cannot help expressing its surprise concerning the ease with which that property passed to Yeltsin's government in spite of the agreements in the framework of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], and asked the members of the European Council to pay attention to these circumstances. In the corridors at the session it is considered that the Ukraine will get special guest status as soon as the next session in May and shortly will become a member of the European Council with full rights.

Returns From France

LD1002064592 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The Ukrainian delegation headed by Ivan Plyushch, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine, which was taking part in the sitting of the parliament assembly of the great European Council has returned from France. Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch gave an interview to correspondents of the state television and radio company of Ukraine at Borispol airport. [passage omitted]

National Affairs

Kravchuk Says Crimea 'Problem for Ukraine'

LD0702150392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By correspondent V. Vinogradov]

[Text] The opinion exists in the Ukraine that the Russian media are partisan in their coverage of the situation in independent Ukraine. The latest reason for this opinion was provided by the Mayak radio channel which, in a commentary on Kravchuk's visit to Germany, reported that Ukraine was not perceived as an independent state.

[Begin recording] [Vinogradov] What are the prospects for Russian-Ukrainian relations in the immediate future?

[Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk] I believe that no matter how hard certain political and other forces try—and such forces exist in the Ukraine as well—to make two great peoples with a long common history quarrel, they will not succeed. The Ukraine has no territorial claims on Russia. Russia has no territorial claims on the Ukraine. The problem of Crimea is a problem for Ukraine. [end recording]

Further on Crimean Dispute

PM1002094992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 5 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Report by K. Tochilin]

[Text] [Tochilin] The deadline for the examination by the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations and Legislative Committee of the question of the constitutionality of the 1954 decision to transfer Crimea Oblast from Russia to the Ukraine expires tomorrow. Following a Russian parliament statement on the Crimea, anti-Russian feeling in the Ukraine gained more and more supporters. Many are starting to doubt the correctness of the Ukraine's decision to disarm. The Ukraine parliament has not remained impartial either.

The following question arises: Why, once again, is the Crimea's fate being decided by politicians in Kiev and Moscow, when this should be done primarily by the Crimean people? Incidentally, here are the results of one sociological poll conducted in Crimea in January: 42 percent of Crimean inhabitants believe that the Crimea should be part of the Ukraine, 15 percent think it should belong to Russia, 22 percent say that it should be a sovereign republic within the Commonwealth, 8 percent want an independent state, and 12 percent find it difficult to answer. But the Crimea question is once again being decided in Kiev and Moscow. Why? The matter is not just confined to the peninsula. The Crimea question will set a precedent for resolving territorial disputes. After all, there are disputed territories in the north of Russia; claims by Moldova over Odessa; and the border between the Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary could also require adjustment. The Crimea is a trump card in the battle for the Black Sea Fleet. Furthermore, the debate on Crimea's affiliation enables many parliamentary groups in the Ukraine and Russia to sidestep economic questions. It is far easier to champion the cause of the Ukraine or Russia, and win admiration for being true patriots. But this is to forget that politicians in the Crimea are trying to solve their questions independently. They have already started gathering signatures for a referendum in the Crimea. Furthermore, the Crimean parliament has proposed holding a Russian-Ukraine summit meeting with the participation of representatives from the Crimea, during which ways of resolving disputes may be found.

Official Comments on Results of Crimean Talks

LD0902190892 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Interview with Oleksandr Hryhorovych Tarasenko, secretary of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet Commission for Defense and Security, by unidentified station correspondent on results of talks held in Crimea; date and place not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Tarasenko] I believe we have achieved certain results. The thing is that earlier on the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the president had sent delegations to the Crimea. I headed two delegations by the way. However, one could not feel any tangible improvements. This time the Supreme Soviet Presidium sent a delegation headed by Volodymyr Borysovych Hrynyov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and we spent more time on just studying the situation and what the Crimean work collectives and parliament of themselves think.

It turns out that there are a lot more problems there than it was conceived of in reality, both by the Ukraine parliament and by the Ukraine public on the whole. What are these problems? For example, in reality there is an autonomous formation—an autonomous republic—and the attitude of the government structures and the parliament toward it is the same as to an average oblast. The Crimeans just do not like that. Therefore, we have written down as one of the main points that the Supreme Soviet Presidium and standing commissions of the Supreme Soviet, together with the Crimean Supreme Soviet presidium, must work out a document on a division of powers. This precisely is a reform of the executive power and state structures which means that more power should be given to autonomous formations so that they can settle all issues of the economy and political life—even the issue of accomodating the formerly deported peoples. There are several such peoples: these are the Crimean Tatars, Germans, and Greeks. Their fate has to be determined. It would be more just if the Crimean Supreme Soviet itself and its state bodies were to decide on that.

[Correspondent] Was the problem of the Black Sea Navy and returning the Crimean Germans to their fatherland—to the Crimea—touched upon at the negotiations in the Crimea?

[Tarasenko] Both problems were touched upon. The problem of the Black Sea Fleet was touched upon in the sense that its political and legal status should be determined as quickly as possible. I think this issue will be settled in the very near future; the regular negotiations in Minsk will take place on 14 February. We have written down a point in this resolution to the effect that the president is instructed to intensify the settling of this issue.

As far as returning Germans who had been deported is concerned, it could be heard in the mass media that any Germans were meant in general. However, when abroad, Leonid Makarovych talked about the Germans who had been deported. This inaccuracy in the information turned out to be a bad stimulant of emotions in the Crimea as well. Therefore we explained this issue too. I think this issue should also be settled in a civilized manner.

[Correspondent] So the tension around the Crimea was removed?

[Tarasenko] I think that the (?resolution) of the Supreme Soviet and also the statement in response to the resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet should stabilize everything to a certain extent. I think that here it should be in such a way that people are not misled or deceived. I think everyone simply has to be judicious and wise.

Crimean Presidium Says Change of Flag Illegal

PM1002103992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 92 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report under the "One-Line Telegrams" rubric: "Crimea Does Not Recognize the Yellow and Blue Flag"]

[Text] The Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium has deemed the Ukrainian parliament's decision to change Ukraine's state flag illegal. When passing the decision, the parliamentarians noted that when voting took place in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the proposal to introduce the yellow and blue flag as the state flag did not pick up the large majority of votes needed to introduce appropriate amendments to the State Constitution. The red and blue flag is therefore continuing to be used as the state flag in the autonomous republic. It is also flying from the Crimean parliament building. Measures have been taken to strengthen the guard over it in order to thwart possible attempts by nationalist elements to remove it.

Declaration Issued on Status of Crimean Tatars

MK0702145992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Text of "Declaration of the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar People: 'On the Political Situation in Crimea'", followed by untitled NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA postscript]

[Text] Crimea has recently been transformed into a source of military-political and state-administrative contention between Russia and Ukraine. While advancing various arguments concerning who Crimea "should belong to," both sides are openly and cynically ignoring the rights of the peninsula's indigenous people—the Crimean Tatars—to self-determination in their national territory. In 1944 the Soviet government subjected the Crimean Tatars to forced deportation and genocide, the consequences of which have not been eliminated to this day. Russia and Ukraine bear special responsibility for restoring the trampled rights of the Crimean Tatar people.

The Crimean Tatars were deported at a time when their national territory—Crimea—was a member of the RSFSR, with the rights of an autonomous national-territorial state formation. Furthermore, Russia has now declared itself the legal successor to the former USSR, under whose state policy genocide was committed. In addition, in order to appear to be the initiators of the complete restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people, the leadership of Russia is bringing to the forefront the question of the legality of having transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine in 1954.

The Ukraine's responsibility for a political resolution of the Crimean Tatar problem—the restoration of the Crimean Tatar people's national state— is based on the fact that Crimea has been a part of the Ukraine since 1954. However, despite support for the legal demands of the Crimean Tatar people expressed by democratic public organizations in Ukraine, the parliament of the Ukrainian Republic continues to ignor the right of the Crimean Tatar people to self-determination in their own national territory. Crimean Tatars were particularly alarmed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's suggestion to settle Russian Germans in Crimea. Considering the fact that hundreds of thousands of Crimean Tatars still do not have the right to return to their motherland and that the tens of thousands of families that have returned to Crimea remain virtually without housing or shelter, this speech by the Ukrainian president can be seen as irresponsible both in respect to the Crimean Tatars struggling for the restoration of their national rights, as well as in regard to the Russian Germans demanding the restoration of their state system in the Volga region.

As regards the aforementioned, the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar people believes that achieving harmonious relations between Crimea and the Ukraine, as well as interethnic and civil peace on the peninsula, is impossible without observing the following conditions:

1. Recognition of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people to self-determination in their historical motherland—Crimea, and the granting of national-territorial status to Crimea.

2. Recognition of the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar people as the sole supreme authoritative representative organ of the Crimean Tatars and the need for its full participation in all issues concerning the status of Crimea.

3. Observance of all political, economic, cultural and other legal rights of all residents of Crimea regardless of nationality.

4. Recognition of established borders between Russia and the Ukraine.

Adopted at the 2 February 1992 session of the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar people.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA postscript] The declaration of the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar people was adopted before it became known that Leonid Kravchuk's initiative envisages settling in Crimea not all Germans of the former Union, but only those who were at one time deported from the territory of the Ukraine.

Kravchuk Objects to Crimean Ownership of Dacha

LD0902120992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The state dacha of former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev in Faros should become a place of international talks and high level meetings, declared Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. INTERFAX reports that today the Crimea authorities have declared the Faros complex to be the property of the autonomous Crimea republic. However, Leonid Kravchuk believes that the fate of the buildings should be decided on the basis of relevant agreements between Crimea, Ukraine, and Russia.

Supreme Soviet Hold Session on 7 Feb

LD0702122692

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian at 0913 GMT on 7 February begins to carry a live relay of the 7 February session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. Reception is fair.

The announcer notes that Prime Minister Fokin gave a concluding speech at the Supreme Soviet, although no details are given. The annoucer continues: "People's Deputy Holovatyy proposed suspending the government and giving the Ukrainian president the opportunity to form his own, as he put it, presidential government." Deputy Skoryk disagrees with this proposal saying she is one of the deputies who believe "the resignation of the government today would be a dangerous thing" since this would create a government crisis.

The announcer reports that President Kravchuk then took the floor: "His rejoinder on the present situation in essence boils down to the fact that the Supreme Soviet is adopting a decision that includes an obligation for the Ukrainian president to form a new government at a time when changes have not been made to the Constitution. In order to reach some kind of mutually acceptable variation of this decision, President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk proposed a 15-minute break for consultations and to reach an agreement between the groups of deputies."

The announcer says that deputies were engaged in "pretty lively" exchanges of views during the break, both in the hall and in the corridors. At 0917 GMT, the station broadcasts music.

At 0930 GMT, the station resumes its coverage of the Supreme Soviet session. The Presidium's draft resolution on giving the president the right to form a new Cabinet of Ministers within 10 days is proposed. According to this resolution, the president has the right to keep ministers from the present Cabinet and introduce new ones. The discussion of propositions, alterations, and additions to the resolution continues until 1045 GMT. The deputies decide to vote on each individual clause of the resolution. Finally, President Kravchuk proposes the wording of the most important clause, Clause 1. It reads: "To give the president the right to determine the structure of the government. To instruct the president to form a new government within 15 days and submit proposal with regard to changing the structure of executive power at all levels." The deputies approve this wording and pass the resolution. After several other clauses are passed, a deputy proposes a vote on the entire resolution. It is passed by a majority of votes.

At 1030 GMT, a 30-minute break is announced.

Further on Session

LD0802140592 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the Supreme Soviet resolution on the report of the Cabinet of Ministers on the implementation and effectiveness of measures concerning social protection of the population and protection of the internal market of the Ukraine, it is noted in particular that the government's activity in this matter has turned out to be unsatisfactory. This became one of the causes of social tension in society and the people's dissatisfaction. The Cabinet of Ministers did not always settle the issues that arose efficiently and failed to mobilize ministries and departments to make timely forecasts regarding possible consequences connected with carrying out the price reform. A number of officials of the Ukraine's state government bodies showed professional incompetence and organizational helplessness.

The Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine resolved to instruct the president of the Ukraine to define a new composition of the government during a period of 10 days and to submit propositions on changes in the structure of executive authorities of all levels.

The standing commissions of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine should within the period of seven days submit draft laws on solving the problems, which were set forth in the report of the prime minister of the Ukraine, for examination by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine.

Law on Presidential Representative Discussed

LD0902170592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1439 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The Ukraine Supreme Soviet is discussing the draft law on the introduction of presidential representatives on the spot in the capacity of heads of administration. Now we have Donetsk on the line. My question to correspondent Gennadiy Kondaurov: What do people in the city think of that idea? Does the Donbass need a head of administration?

[Kondaurov] Well, this question is really being discussed extensively at the present time, and some deputies are proposing that an extraordinary session of the oblast soviet should be convened to discuss these problems. On the other hand, a whole series of public organizations and parties are preparing to hold a meeting on Saturday [8 February] in order to discuss alternative proposals, that is a federal system for the Ukraine, when individual territories, for example the Donbass, would have maximum independence as part of a Ukrainian state.

In general, there are various viewpoints on this issue, and I think that at the present time, when the Supreme Soviet has circulated its draft decision on this issue on the spot, political activity has become very much more intensive because this is a vitally important issue. [passage omitted in which Kondaurov interviews Vladimir Vasiliyevich Rybak, deputy of the city soviet, chairman of the Kievskiy rayon soviet of Donetsk, who states that this decision has been called for by the present ineffectual system of authority; he stresses that this head of administration should be elected by the people; Kondaurov concludes by stressing that the Donbass must have maximum independence, and refers to concern that this new institution will restrict the rights of local administration bodies]

Kravchuk Attends Economic Council Meeting

LD1002114392 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The State Economic Council of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine met in Kiev yesterday. Among the issues discussed were: taxes; the mechanism of formation of state order; price formation; labor motivation and social protection of the population; the functioning of commodity exchanges and introduction of national currency. Taking part in the sitting were production workers from Fastov and Donetsk. The ambassador of Russia in the Ukraine was also present at the sitting.

It became known that another agreement on mutual deliveries is expected between the presidents of Russia and the Ukraine, in which acceptance of responsibility for any disruption of supplies is envisaged. Leonid Kravchuk, the president of the Ukraine, took part in the sitting and delivered a speech. In Kravchuk's opinion the Economic Council can become the body where the best economic ideas should be accumulated.

Commission Set Up To Oversee Aid Distribution

LD1002031792 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The Commission for Issues of Coordination, Reception, Transportation, Guarding and Distribution of Humanitarian Aid which is being delivered from abroad has been confirmed under the Cabinet of Ministers by the government's decision in order to fulfill the corresponding decree of the president of the Ukraine. The commission is headed by Serhiy Komisarenko, the deputy head of the government. It is expedient that government representatives of foreign states, public and charity organizations, firms, and business circles which give humanitarian aid to the Ukraine, participate in the commission's work as observers.

Draft Law on Transcarpathia Rule Discussed

LD0902194392 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Report by station correspondent Ivan selmenskyy]

[Excerpts] A draft Ukrainian law on a special self-governed administrative territory of Transcarpathia has been submitted for nationwide discussion in Transcarpathian oblast. Our own correspondent Ivan Selmenskyy reports.

[Selmenskyy] This draft has been prepared by a working commission of the oblast executive committee which was created according to the results of the oblast referendum on 1 December. It was carried out in the oblast simultaneously with the all-Ukrainian referendum. As is known, 78% of the oblast's adult population expressed themselves in favor of giving Transcarpathia the status of a special self-governed administrative territory as part of independent Ukraine.

Scientific workers and specialists of the national economy, public and political organizations, and national and cultural societies have started expressing their opinions and propositions concerning the published draft. All critical remarks and even alternative drafts will be taken into account during the preparation of the final version of the document, which will be submitted to the Ukraine Supreme Soviet.

I spoke with Serhiy Ivanovych Pustych, member of the working commission and deputy chairman of the oblast executive committee.

[Begin recording] [Pustych] The work is arranged in two directions. The first direction is an appeal to the Ukraine Supreme Soviet, a proposition, with a request to make alterations and additions to the Ukraine Constitution. First and foremost the talk is about changing the first part of Article 77, or to be more precise, adding the words: "There is a special self-governed administrative territory of Transcarpathia in the Ukraine." [passage omitted]

[Pustych] This is the first direction. We hope that this appeal of the oblast Soviet—it was adopted recently at the latest sitting of the oblast soviet session—will be examined positively by the Supreme Soviet in accordance with the results of the referendum.

The second direction—implementation of the referendum results in our practical work. This is the preparation of the law of Ukraine...

[Selmenskyy, interrupting] Serhiy Ivanovych, I would like to learn in more detail about the contents and the main points of the draft.

[Pustych] The main principles with regard to the status of a self-governed territory of Transcarpathia stand out. We singled out six such principles:

1. Inviolability and indivisibility of the territory of Transcarpathia as an inseparable part of the Ukraine.

2. Transcarpathia is not part of any other state or administrative and territorial formations.

3. A national-territorial and cultural self-government.

4. Economic independence and the right to choose the forms of its implementation—the principle of self-financing.

5. The principle of a division of terms of reference with regard to general government bodies and government bodies of the special self-governed administrative territory, which are defined by the corresponding legislation.

6. There can be no direct effect by acts of the state executive and command bodies of power on the territory of Transcarpathia. [passage omitted]

[Pustych] Some time in the second part of February an extraordinary session of the oblast soviet will be convened when the issue of the draft law on the special self-governed administrative territory of Transcarpathia will be examined. We hope that this draft will be adopted as a result of this discussion, and will be sent by the oblast Soviet to the Supreme Soviet as a legislative initiative.

'Critical' Agricultural Situation Discussed

LD0902170892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] A critical situation has developed in Ukraine regarding the provision of sowing equipment and spare parts for its maintenance. One can count the days left before the start of the spring sowing, but 55,000 tractors are standing dismantled. These facts were cited at a meeting of the republic's government. The meeting noted that this situation has come about as a result of the complete disintegration of the system of material and technical supplies—many Ukrainian works depend of their suppliers from Russia and other republic of the former Union, which have stopped delivering components and raw materials. One should put aside political ambitions and agree to a meeting between leaders of enterprises from the Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus which produce machinery and equipment for rural areas and which are parts of a single cycle, and this should be done before the sowing campaign starts.

Grinev Stresses Need To Accelerate Reform

LD0902011892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1532 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Vladimir Grinev believes that success of Russia's economic reforms could mean a disaster for the Ukrainian policy. Commenting to PF [POSTFACTUM] on a Ukrainian Government report, which Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin delivered in parliament on February 6, Vladimir Grinev added: There was practically no report to hear. What worries me most of all is the fact that the government still hasn't made a detailed analysis of the situation and offers no forecast as to where we're going and which path we'll follow in the future. Besides, our government does not have any concept of a new tax system. If we compare this to the way Gaydar's team analyses the situation in Russia, all the shortcomings of our cabinet's work stand out. As soon as the ruble's stabilization begins, our coupon ideology will simply burst like a soap bubble. According to Grinev, Ukraine's last chance is to carry out reforms faster than Russia. However, he believes, this is not happening, and his Republic is still lagging behind everyone else. I fear that our enterprises may soon stop working. If Russia introduces a Russian currency, then things will go very bad for Ukraine. Ukraine is not prepared for such a step on Russia's behalf, deputy Ukrainian parliamentary chairman stressed.

Black Sea Fleet Group To Swear Allegiance

LD0902072392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] According to a report by Ukrainian television, a group of servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet will swear an oath of allegiance to the Ukraine today. These are servicemen stationed at naval bases in Nikolayev and Ochakov. Ukrainian television reported that Admiral Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, visited both bases yesterday and attempted to dissuade the officers and sailors from taking the oath.

Servicemen Face Obstacles

LD0802215992 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in English 0100 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The situation which emerged in the naval aviators' unit in Ochakov forced the commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Igor Kasatonov to put aside all his affairs and arrive in this city in Nikolayev region.

The thing is that almost two thirds of the servicemen of this unit gave their consent to swear allegiance to the people of Ukraine, but the servicemen came up against obstacles on the part of the local command, in particular Lt. Gen. Yuriy (?Lutkov), and Igor Kasatonov himself who, as is known, is resolutely against transferring the Black Sea Naval Fleet to Ukraine.

Officers, Soldiers Refuse Loyalty Oath

OW0802024592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 28 per cent of officers, 5.5 per cent of noncommissioned officers [NCO] and 44 per cent of soldiers from the air force army stationed in Lvov, Ukraine, have not taken an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, according to a major-general Vladislav Davydov who reported this information at the meeting of officers of the Chief Staff of the Air Force on February 5. He also paid attention to the fact that for lack of fuel and because of problems with repairing military equipment and organizing flights, military pilots had only 1.5 flight hours which is 15 times less as compared with the established norms.

Crimean Militia Officers Complains About Oath

LD1002005292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast—read by announcer Yuriy Rostov]

[Text] Officers from the Crimean militia have appealed to us. They say that great pressure is currently being placed on them to force them to swear allegiance to the Ukraine. If they do not, they say, they are threatened with dismissal. The officers think that the oath-taking should not take place prior to a referendum on the fate of the Crimea.

'Disinformation' on Sevastopol Units Denied

LD1002084792 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] More frequent cases of Russian mass media carrying information which does not correspond to reality arouse pity. One day a TV program from the Moscow Ostankino studio informed the world about self-defense units in Sevastopol.

Sevastopol Mayor Yermakov made the following comment: That is political disinformation. Former servicemen who fought in Afghanistan dissociated themselves resolutely from the idea of setting up self-defense units. Said Kot, deputy chairman of the Sevastopol branch of the Afghanistan Veterans' Union: Our guys who experienced the horrors of war will never put a weapon in their hands to settle internal disputes.

Truthful Information for Servicemen Urged

LD0902001292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1317 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section: "Kiev City Deputies Call for Ukraine Way Out From the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Kiev—68 members of the Kiev City Council have come forward with a demand that the Ukrainian president and the chairman of the Ukranian parliament speed up the Republic's cessation from the Commonwealth of Independent States (the CIS). The appeal the group of City Council members spread on February 7 makes references to an unbridled anti-Ukrainian campaign the Russian mass media has unleashed and to an unprecedented provocation aimed at separating the Crimea from Ukraine and at taking control over the Black Sea Fleet. The appeal also underscores that the unlawful acts of the Russian leadership destroy the foundations of the Minsk accords and are fraught with a sharp deterioration of relations not only between states, but between different ethnic groups within the CIS. The authors of the appeal call for a denunciation of the CIS treaty and for placing a new commander at the helm of the Black Sea Fleet. Kiev City Council members are also demanding an end to the outright provocative torrent of misinformation, which is pouring muddy waters on the heads of sea-men, serving in the Black Sea Fleet, and on the heads of all other Ukrainian citizens. For this purpose they suggest that Ukrainian television set up highly professional UTI and UT3 channels (with programmes in Russian and in other languages on UT3), to ensure that truthful information reaches all Army and Navy servicemen, all citizens of Ukraine and the neighbouring states in time and in its full volume.

Chernobyl Veterans Demand Defense Spending Cut

OW0702143692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1150 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The public association SOYUZ CHERNOBYL in Ukraine has sent President Leonid Kravchuk a message saying that the oath of allegiance to Kiev is expected to be taken by "too bulky an army" whose maintenance promises to reduce to naught many social programs, including one providing support for people afflicted by the Chernobyl disaster.

The authors called for cutting the army strength down to a level of minimum defense sufficiency. They also demanded slashing defense-related expenditures and urgently working out specific projects of conversion. This, they argued, would release funds for assistance to the needy.

The association insists that Prime Minister Vitold Fokin resign as "a direct author of the Ukrainian cabinet's anti-national policy."

Rukh Establishes Supreme Soviet Faction

LD0802215192 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in English 0100 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Yet another deputy faction has been set up in the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. It includes parliamentarians, members of the popular movement Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] of Ukraine. The faction is headed by the chairman of the political council of this sociopolitical organization, Mykhaylo Horyn. The goal of the activity of such a deputy group is not restricted to popularizing the ideas of Rukh—it includes the realization of radical reforms in our economy, social protection on a legal basis of Ukraine's population during the transition to market economy, and also all-around promotion of the process of national revival.

Donbass Demands Free Economic Zone Status

OW0902173092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Donbass, Ukraine's biggest coal mining area, economic executives, spokesmen for public organizations and entrepreneurs held a congress for its revival. They called for granting Donbass the status of free economic zone. The congress in Donetsk ended on Saturday [8 February]. Participants in it also called for giving Russian the status of Ukraine's second official language, for changing the taxation policy and for opening Ukraine's borders to ensure a free movement of labor force, money and goods.

The congress adopted rules for the organization called "Movement for the Revival of Donbass".

Solidarity Organization Threatens Strikes

LD0702185692 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] A co-ordinating council of the All-Ukrainian Organization of Workers' Solidarity held a news conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists. It was announced that strikes may begin in Ukraine in the near future due to unreasoned policy of Ukraine's Government to protect the population under conditions of price liberalization. Therefore, the threat of social uprising did not lessen but increased. It was also announced that the organization will be working steadfastly for the resignation of the Fokin government.

Miners Movement Leaders Deny March Reports

LD0802212792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The leaders of the Donetskugol production association and of the miners movement have refuted rumors that 100,000 Donetsk miners will march on Kiev to pressure the republican leadership.

Impact of Reform, Possible Strikes Viewed

PM1002094492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 First Edition p 2

[Svetlana Ryaboshapko article: "What the Fate of Ukrainian Reform Depends On"]

[Text] As of today more than 80,000 military have sworn alliegance to the people of the Ukraine, and the figure is rising every day. So apparently the Ukraine will have its army. As for its government, that is more difficult. Not only is the ground getting too hot beneath its feet, but the heat is spreading underground too.

When the miners at a Lugansk pit got 80 grams of sausage for their 25-ruble coupons, they refused to go down the pit. True, the miners were persuaded to work in the end, but the trade union bosses, frightened to death, urgently cabled Kravchuk and Fokin. The Ukrainian leadership's response to the trade unions' call was something to the effect that the dissatisfied miners will be swamped with sugar, which, if they like, they can exchange for pitprops.

Out of several cities where a "prestrike condition" has been diagnosed, the most unusual rally was held in Cherkassy. The speakers tried to answer the crucial question: "Who ate my meat." Let me explain at once that this title for the rally was partly a joke, and nobody was calling for retribution against those damned Muscovites who ate all the meat. They were saying that an inhabitant of the former Union eats less meat than a domestic cat in the United States.

Nonetheless, in the opinion of Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Vladimir Grinev, President Kravchuk will not let Premier Fokin go. Most likely, Vitold Fokin will be given the opportunity to form a new government.

It seems that the fate of reform in the Ukraine in the near future will depend on what hits us first—a wave of government changes, or a wave of strikes.

Orthodox Supporters Protest Metropolitan

LD1002072192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Before this report from Ternopol, I want to say this with sorrow: As if we didn't have enough disagreements over ethnic and ideological issues, we are increasingly seeing religious conflicts as well. This morning a column of many thousands of believers made its way through the western Ukraine town of Kremenetz to the Zlatoverkho-Pochayevskyy monastery where the Orthodox believers voiced a protest on what they regard as the illegal decision by the Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to dismiss Bishop Sergiy from the administration of the Ternopol-Kremenetz bishopric. They wanted their action to also demonstrate their lack of confidence in Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and all the Ukraine.

First Independent Radio Station Launched

LD1002064992 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The presentation of the Radio (?Rocks) radio station took place in the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukraine. This is the first commercial station in the republic which is not dependent on state structures. Stepan Halyabarda, the chief director, said at the presentation that the station would broadcast according to Western European standards. It will present to listeners the latest in Western music, news, and advertisements. The American hit parade will be aired in the station's program every week. Radio (?Rocks) will be on the air around the clock.

German Community Founded in Sumy Oblast

LD0902014292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0245 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Nikolay Voronenko]

[Text] Sumy, 4 February (TASS)— A German community has been founded in this oblast center. It is a branch of the Ukrainian "Wiedergeburt" ("Rebirth") society of Germans. In the premises allocated by the local authorities, it is planned to develop educational activities as well as work to expand links with the other national societies created in the region. Childen's groups and classes are being opened, involving advanced study of the history and culture of the German people. It is planned to set up international tourist and medical and health centers, and joint economic and commercial enterprises with foreign partners.

Correction to Expert's Views on Economy

WA0902165592

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Expert Views Economic, Financial Problems," published in the 4 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 62:

Column one, first paragraph first sentence, make read: ...establishment of a payments union may... (changing "monetary" to "payments")

Column two, first full paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...establishment of a payments union, its... (changing word)

Same column, second full paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...to shape the payments union in line... (changing word)

Same column, same paragraph, third sentence, make read: ...constatly within the payments union. Savchenko... (changing word)

Belarus

Withdrawal of Tactical Weapons Not Complete

LD0802083792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Igor Sinyakevich: "Belarus: Tactical Nuclear Weapons Still Not Withdrawn From Republic. What About Statements by President Yeltsin and Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko?"]

[Text] The mass media have circulated a statement by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the effect that the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakhstan and Belarus to Russia was completed 1 February.

Republic Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko said the same thing (about Belarus) when speaking in Prague at a session of the Council of CSCE Foreign Ministers.

The Belarussian Military District press center refused to confirm or deny this report.

In order to clear up the situation NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent turned to high-ranking officials in the Belarus Defense Ministry, the parliamentary Commission for Defense Questions, and to the Belarussian Military District Staff. The answers given by all three representatives, who wished to remain anonymous, boiled down to the following: The report that the process of withdrawing tactical nuclear weapons from Belarus territory had been completed by 1 February does not accord with the real situation.

Acting Defense Minister on Transitional Phase

LD0902095192 Berlin ADN in German 0847 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Minsk (ADN)—Colonel General Petr Chausov, acting Belarussian defense minister, regards a transitional phase "lasting for an, as yet, unforseeable period" as necessary for the distribution of the former USSR's Armed Forces among the individual republics. Drastic changes are dangerous, he said in an ADN interview. In the transitional phase, an army strength of 70,000 men is desirable in order to safeguard the republic's independence, which is striving for neutrality and wants to be a nuclear weapons-free state. This will take into account Belarus' capacity; subsequently the number can be reduced to 50,000 or 60,000.

Chausov said the timetable for the removal of all tactical nuclear weapons from the territory of Belarus is being followed. Up to the end of the first six months, they will be taken to Russia and destroyed there. He sees no serious obstacles to an agreement which guarantees Belarus' control of that procedure.

The general said the politicians still have to reach a decision on the strategic nuclear weapons stationed in Belarus. "I don't think we want to be too hasty," he said. The present stage, when the Army is also disintegrating after the dissolution of the Union, poses particular difficulties for the military. "Previously, cadres were deployed on Union territory wherever the military leadership deemed it necessary, regardless of whether they were Ukrainians, Kazakhs, or Belarussians. Now that the formation of national armies is on the agenda, the cadre issue is the most complicated affair. Only about 10 percent of Belarussian officers are serving in their own republic, 90 percent are in other regions, often in crisis areas such as in the Caucasus." The great majority of soldiers want to serve in their homeland but at present there are no vacancies. Many more want to return than go away. The ratio is about 1:100. There is a lack of training facilities, production centers for military technology, equipment, and food in Belarus. The Armed Forces stationed on Belarussian territory—with the exception of the strategic armed forces—were made subordinate to the country's government by parliamentary decree in mid-January.

Transfer Sought To Belarus

LD0802232792 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian

[Text] There is a continuing steep increase in the number of officers who want a transfer to Belarus to continue their service. The Defense Ministry of the republic and the Personnel Directorate of the Belarussian Military District have about 3,000 hopefuls registered. There were 2,000 of them a week ago.

During a conversation with a BELTA correspondent, Petr Chausov, acting Belarussian defense minister, asked him to address the servicemen who intend to return to Belarus through the mass media on his behalf with an appeal to show endurance and a balanced approach to the situation that has developed in the republic.

Today a 170,000 strong grouping is deployed in Belarus whose upkeep rests heavily on the republic which suffered from the Chernobyl. It is difficult to find either work or accommodation for a new influx of military men.

Experts Recommend Heavy Troop Reductions

LD0702152492 Moscow TASS in English 1233 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gold]

[Text] Minsk February 7 TASS—Troop numbers in Belarus should be reduced to 50-80 thousand men in order to achieve a West-European civilians-to-servicemen ratio, according to a group of parliamentary experts.

Currently, there are 160,000 troops, stationed in the republic, a third are working on contracts.

Within the next two years the number of troops will be reduced to 80,000 men.

Military-Owned Land Returned to Civilian Use

LD0702220592 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 0400 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The taboo which for many years guarded the land belonging to the military department on the territory of Belarus has been removed. The resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic has passed the plots of land, on a total area of 19,610 hectares, and which until now were for use by the Defense Ministry of the former USSR, to local authorities for construction of accommodation, personal allotments, and gardening.

The committee for land reform and land tenure at the Council of Ministers of the Republic has been instructed to continue revealing and passing to the national economy irrationally used land, jointly with oblast executive committees and the Belarussian Military District.

Preparing 'Full-Fledged National Currency'

OW1002123192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1107 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus is preparing to introduce a full-fledged national currency. According to State Mint head Sergey Slavchenko, there will be paper notes—talers; and coins—grosches.

The Belarussian experts believe one taler will exchange for $1.

The Mint's artists have prepared several designs of 1, 2, 5, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 taler banknotes.

One of the notes will feature, just as the current coupon does, an aurochs in the famous natural park, Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Other notes will portray prominent historical personalities, such as Francisk Skorina, Janko Kupala, etc. The 1,000-taler note will feature a scene from the battle of Grunewald.

The printing of the new Belarussian money is expected to begin in the second half of 1992.

Belarus Republic's Population Tops 10 Million

The State Statistics Committee in Belarus has published preliminary data on the republic's population. According to it, a total of 10,300,000 people lived in Belarus in January this year.

Moldova

Snegur Interview on Unification, National Army

LD0902203992 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—"There is no need to artificially hurry up the process of Moldova's unification with Romania," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said in a televised interview on Sunday [9 February]. He said he believed in the existence of two countries whose population speaks the same language. Snegur said that at the same time Moldova would be removing the obstacles that "existed from 1940 to the time of the revolution in Romania" and would be creating conditions for the two countries not to be alienated. The president said the Moldovan people supported just this concept, so there was no need to oppose the people's will.

At the same time, Snegur noted that in conditions of independence it would be possible to attract foreign capital sooner to carry out modernisation of the republic's economy and resolve social problems.

Regarding Kishinev's relations with the Dnestr and the Gagauz republics which proclaimed their independence, Snegur said they had been formed "at the bid from the centre as tools of political blackmail." He said that the very formation and existence of the Dnester Republic would have been impossible if it were not for support by certain forces in Russia and other areas. "As far as we know, representatives of that republic are constantly visiting in Moscow and receiving consultations."

Snegur said he favoured cultural autonomy for the Gagauz, but he also visualised a free economic zone in the region, just as he visualised the possibility of a free economic zone of the latest pattern also in the Dnestr Republic.

He said, however, that for this purpose "local leaders should first disarm and dissolve armed guards." There is no alternative for this, Snegur said. "Federalisation would mean recognition of these republics, of the people's right to self-determination," Snegur said. But he said that the population of the Dnestr Region consisted of 40 per cent of Moldovans, 26 per cent of Ukrainians, 25 per cent of Russians.

The Moldovan president said he declared for "united and undivided Moldava," for deciding disputed matters by "peaceful political means."

Snegur said Moldova now has "highly effective negotiations" with representatives of the Main Command of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The purpose of the negotiations is to form "Moldova's national army on the basis of separate units stationed mainly on the right bank of the Dnestr." Snegur said the appropriate documents are shortly to be signed. He said at the same time that this process does not apply to the 14th Army stationed mainly in Tiraspol. In the transitional period it will be subordinated directly to the Main Command of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Regarding the observance of human rights in Moldova, Snegur said that "the state policy is not aimed at the violation of human rights." To confirm these words, he cited the law on citizenship adopted by the Moldovan parliament. He said that this law unconditionally grants the right of citizenship to all permament residents in Moldova.

Urgent Need To Restore Russian Economic Links

LD0802222692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] INTERFAX reports that Moldova must urgently restore economic links with Russia and other former Union states since only close cooperation with them can secure the Republic's independence, a Moldovan Government press center statement revealed today. It notes that electric power stations and heating facilities can come to a halt at any moment because of the lack of fuel in the Republic. A critical situation also has evolved at industrial enterprises.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bulgaria

LD0702202392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1706 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stepanenko]

[Text] Sofia, 5 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A protocol was signed in Sofia today on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Moldova. Stoyan Ganev, Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, and Nicolae Tiu, head of the foreign political department of Moldova, who is here on an official visit, signed the document.

Both the ministers described this act as an important step in the development of the traditionally good relations between the two peoples. They stressed that other bilateral documents are being drawn up, including an interstate treaty and agreements on trade, economic ties, and consular relations.

U.S. Secretary of State To Visit 10 Feb

LD0702135992 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev February 7 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will make a brief visit to Kishinev on Monday [10 February], Moldovan Foreign Ministry officials said.

Baker will spend three hours in the Moldovan capital and hold talks with President Mircea Snegur and other officials. The sides are expected to agree on establishing diplomatic relations and set a date for Snegur's visit to Washington.

The sides will also discuss Moldova's human rights record.

Muravschi Meets With U.S. Aid Delegation

LD0902010892 Kishinev Radio Kishinev Network in Russian 0700 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi yesterday received a delegation of American experts visiting Moldova with the aim of studying ways to provide the people with humanitarian aid. During the conversation it was noted that the first aircraft with medicines and medical equipment will arrive in Kishinev on 10 February, and three days later a big consignment of baby food and foodstuffs is due to arrive.

Valeriu Muravschi assured the experts that on the government's part all measures would be taken to ensure that the aid goes where it is intended. Order in unloading and distributing the goods will be provided by police officers, stressed the leader of the Cabinet of Ministers. A special parliamentary commission has been set up in Moldova, he added, which will coordinate the distribution of incoming humanitarian aid.

Government Approves Balanced Draft Budget

OW0802182892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan government approved a balanced draft budget for the first six months of this year at its meeting on Friday [7 February].

Officials so far decline to give specific figures of the budget's revenues and expenditure citing an unpredictable inflation rate.

Deputy finance minister Valeriu Kitsan [name as received] told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent the budget was calculated in rubles but in the future, once Moldova introduced its own currency, the budget may be redenominated in Moldovan leas at an expected rate.

The budget has even a small surplus, Kitsan stressed, adding that the surplus was achieved primarily by the introduction of a radically new taxation system.

Observers say the budget will be presented to experts from the IMF even before it was approved by the parliament because a balanced budget is considered the main prerequisite for Moldova's joining the IMF.

Tajikistan

Nabiyev, Border Commander Discuss Issues

LD0902053892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Tajikistan's president [R. Nabiyev] is meeting the commander in chief of the border troops [L.Ya. Kalinichenko] today. The republic of Tajikistan borders with China and Afghanistan. The overall length of borders in this region comes to 2,000 kilometers. It is not calm today on the southern borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. Just this year 88 border violations have already been recorded here and two acts of terrorism have been averted. Therefore it is not by chance that the main subject of the conversation that took place concerned problems that have arisen in connection with the protection of the border of sovereign Tajikistan.

Also discussed was the structure and subordination of border troops, the concept of their work, the social and legal protection of border troops, and other questions regarding the protection of the borders of member-states of the Commonwealth.

[Kalinichenko] My aim was somewhat to refresh contacts with the presidents of our Central Asian states so as to once more return to questions connected with the work of border troops of the CIS, to discuss the main concepts of this work, and to work out at least common approaches to questions that have to be resolved at the meeting of heads of states in Minsk.

Border Troops To Be Formed

OW0702141292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Col.-Gen. Ilya Kalinichenko, commander of the border troops of the Central Asian Border District, arrived in Dushanbe on Friday [7 February] for talks with President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent reports the parties are expected to discuss preparations for the Commonwealth summit in Minsk, where Tajikistan intends to announce the setting up of a border troop command of its own. Bakhrom Rakhmonov, a national defense adviser to the Tajik president, observed that "Tajikistani border troops should receive orders from Dushanbe."

Afghans Continue To Cross Border

OW0902171792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] General Anatoliy Martovitskiy, first deputy commander of the Central Asian border district, has refuted the rumours circulating locally that Afghan guerrillas are planning to fight their way into Tajikistan in one of its southern areas. In an interview for IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent A. Martovitskiy described these rumours as false.

In any case, the deputy commander said, "local frontier guards are quite capable of protecting Tajikistan's border". Army units will come to their aid, if necessary.

When asked about developments on the border, he said that last year 463 trespassers were detained. According to General Martovitskiy, lately the mujahidin have taken to opening fire on helicopters flying over the mountainous sectors of the border.

Afghan guerrillas, said A. Martovitskiy, act in two groups when violating the border. One group ensures protection for the other on the Afghan side of the border by firing at helicopters to distract attention from the group intent on crossing the border.

Frontier guards have to heighten security measures. They are continuing negotiations with the elders of Afghan tribes living in the border areas with a view to ensuring ceasefire.

Minister on Afghan Solution, Nuclear Treaty

OW0802032392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tajik Foreign Minister Lakim Kayumov has said in Dushanbe that Tajikistan is willing to join the efforts to resolve the Afghan problem peacefully, and that it stands for turning the region into an area of peace and cooperation. According to L. Kayumov, Tajikistan will adhere to the principle of settling differences between countries by peaceful means, and use internationally-recognized mechanisms and procedures for the purpose.

Tajikistan will join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, proclaim its territory a denuclearized zone and sign an agreement on guarantees with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Observers believe that L. Kayumov made this statement to refute the rumours that Tajikistan sells fissionable materials in the Islamic world.

President Urges Consolidation, National Accord

LD0802143692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] President Rakhman Nabiyev of Tajikistan has called on the political parties and movements in his republic to work for the consolidation of forces and national accord. Tajikistan's mass media carried the text of his call. President Nabiyev accuses the opposition leaders of playing up the unavoidable economic difficulties and instigating civic disobedience, endless strikes, and other illegal actions.

Republic Not Ready for Market

OW0802050292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President R. Nabiyev, of Tajikistan, has told the people that the republic was unprepared to steer into a market economy. In a message to the people published by the press the President warned that the opposition was seeking to take advantage of the problems and blamed the government of ignoring the people's needs and failing to introduce social guarantees. The President warned against civil disobedience, strikes and other illegal actions.

Iranian President Invites Nabiyev to Summit

LD0902102492 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Feb. 9, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran has invited his Tajik counterpart Rakhman Nabiyev to attend the summit meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to be held in Tehran later this month.

The invitation was made in a letter submitted to Nabiyev by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Borojerdi here Saturday [8 February].

Nabiyev thanked Tehran's interest in the republic and voiced his country's readiness to attend the ECO summit scheduled for February 16-17.

Nabiyev who is to attend the summit as an observer will submit an official request for membership in ECO during the summit.

The tripartite organization groups Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and recently some of the newly-independent Asian Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union have expressed desire to join the organization.

Borojerdi who is also the special envoy of the president left Dushanbe for Tashkent, Uzbek Republic, to submit a similar message to the Uzbek president.

Upcoming Supreme Soviet Session Outlined

LD0802164792 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan has resolved to convene the 12th session of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan of the 12th convocation on 26 February 1992 in Dushanbe. The following issues are to be discussed:

1. The basic directions for the government's agrarian policy under conditions of transferring to a market economy.

2. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on payments for the use of land.

3. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on land reform in the Republic of Tajikistan.

4. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on [word indistinct] farms.

5. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on [word indistinct] of enterprises.

6. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on securities and stock exchanges.

7. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on arbitration tribunals of the Republic of Tajikistan.

8. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on arrangements for settlement of farming disputes in arbitration tribunals of the Republic of Tajikistan.

9. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on the State Supervision Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan.

10. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on arrangements for the [word indistinct] of the people's deputy of the Republic of Tajikistan, deputy of the local council of the people's deputies of the Republic of Tajikistan.

11. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on state policy for youths.

12. The draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on introducing amendments and addenda to a number of legal documents of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Other issues are also to be discussed.

Muslim Spriritual Leader Warns of Split

LD0802121692 Hamburg DPA in German 0600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Dushanbe (DPA)—Grand Qazi Haji Akbar Turadzhonzoda, spiritual leader of the Tajik Muslims, has called on all the political forces in the country to form a government of national unity. In a DPA interview given last night, Turadzhonzoda at the same time warned the Islamic-Democratic Opposition in Dushanbe against adhering to their demands for the dissolution of the communist-dominated parliament and fresh elections. "Fresh parliamentary elections mean that Tajikistan would be split into separate parts." [passage omitted]

In Turadzhonzoda's view, neither religiously motivated opposition parties nor the present government of the former Communist Party leader Rakhmon Nabiyev are in a position to solve the problems of the underdeveloped country on their own. He described the price increases of the past few weeks, for example, as "robbing the people." Only a spark was now enough to bring the people onto the streets.

Two years ago on 12 February, there was a demonstration against the former leadership, followed by national unrest which was smashed by the Soviet security forces. Twenty-five people were killed and hundreds injured. The opposition has called for a rally to mark the incident. Turadzhonzoda criticized the government for failing to take precautionary measures for the clashes expected on the anniversary.

New Political Party Formed for Entrepreneurs

LD0802194592 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By TAJIKTA correspondent Galina Gridneva for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe February 7 TASS—A new political organization under the name of People's Unity Party, has made its appearance on the political scene of Tajikistan. The new party considers the new born class of entrepreneurs as its main political base.

Elaborating the main points of the new party's programme in a press conference, the chairman of the Organizing Committee, Otakhon Latifi underscored, that its leaders do not support those, who demand immediate resignation of the parliament and the government of Tajikistan. According to them, their resignation may lead to a political chaos.

Turkmenia

Military Accepts Plan for Command, Maintenance

MK0702142092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 3

[Igor Zhukov report: "Turkmenia: 'Defense Alliance With Russia More Feasible Than Accords Within CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Framework,' Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov Believes"]

[Text] The problem of the army is still the center of attention for the republic's leadership. Ahead of the meeting between the heads of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] governments on 14 February, Turkmenistan defined its views on the future of the Commonwealth's armed forces. Clarifying them, President Niyazov said at a meeting with the supreme command of the armed forces stationed on Turkmenia's territory that, despite the efforts being made, the army's future is unclear. "Interstate demarcation is continuing, whether we like it or not. No joint command can resist this. Either there will be a military coup establishing an outright dictatorship, or the only correct way out will be found," Niyazov said.

Statements by Turkmen military indicate that the army should not particularly rely on the situation being cleared up 14 February. Since the army nationalization process is unfolding everywhere—not only in the west of what was the USSR, but also in Central Asia—there are not many chances of the heads of the CIS governments reaching mutual understanding, and for that reason the main question of the meeting—the troops' funding—may remain unresolved. This was also shown by the preliminary consultations, during which Turkmenia has been told to keep its share of defense spending at the previous level. Republic government experts believe that, considering the overall reduction in military spending, this quota is still inflated and incompatible with Turkmenia's defense needs and budget.

Although ahead of the meeting the members of the republic's official delegation preferred to refrain from making pessimistic forecasts, it is clear that they have far greater expectations of bilateral agreements with the Russian Government. "To be honest, there is already an agreement on a defense alliance with Yeltsin," Niyazov admitted. "We will maintain the army together, guaranteeing servicemen's social security and officers' pension provisioning. It is hardly advisable to expect the Commonwealth to reach a unanimous opinion. I have spoken to Kravchuk about army matters and heard that Turkmenia is not the Black Sea and that there is no point in the Ukraine defending its security there."

In addition to an alliance with Russia, an Asian defense alliance does not seem devoid of logic either. However, Turkmenia does not support this idea, obviously afraid of possible dependence on its powerful eastern neighbor, Uzbekistan, which has already caused plenty of problems for Ashkhabad by closing its borders and leaving troops stationed in Turkmenia without a repair base and material and technical supplies from the former Turkmen Military District's dumps and plants. The Uzbek initiative regarding an autonomous guard for the state border has dismembered the Central Asian Border District cooperation and management system.

In view of this, Turkmenia greeted with satisfaction the initiative from the CIS commander in chief, creating a "South" [yug] operational command and a state border guard committee, viewing this as being within the bounds of its bilateral relations with Russia rather than within the Commonwealth framework. "Russia is a great country and its paramount role within the CIS is obvious," Saparmurad Niyazov said during the meeting with the officers. "Our attitude to command must be important for you, but whether it is called a CIS or Russian command changes nothing for Turkmenia."

Among the officers this stance met with full support, especially since, while proclaiming itself the only logical defender of servicemen's interests, the republic government immediately went further than declarations, and in the month since the beginning of the year has allocated the military more than 50 apartments in the capital alone. The question of food subsidies (up to 700 rubles per person) will be decided together. A number of other measures have been envisaged to provide officers and members of their families with help and social security. The only condition that the Turkmen authorities have set the army is that it guarantee not to interfere in the republic's internal affairs.

The president's terms were accepted without objection. According to Lieutenant General Nikolay Kormiltsev, commander of all units and formations in Turkmenia, the Turkmen Government's military concept based on a defense alliance with Russia has no major flaws. As for the Turkmen Defense Ministry, the army, while by no means endeavoring to become an autonomous political force, hopes to find in it a supporter and intermediary in contacts with the civilian authorities.

Foreign Minister Briefs State Department Team

OW0702021192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenia is interested in establishing comprehensive diplomatic, economic, scientific and cultural relations with the United States, its foreign minister Abdy Kuliyev told a delegation of the U.S. state department on Wednesday [5 February].

The American delegation came to Ashkhabad in the framework of preparations for a visit to be paid by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in mid-February.

UN Security Council Recommends Membership

LD0802195792 Moscow TASS in English 2131 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] United Nations February 7 TASS—The United Nations Security Council recommended today the UN General Assembly to admit Turkmenistan as a member of this most important international organization. After accepting Turkmenistan without a vote on the resolution, the chairman for the current month, Thomas Pickering (U.S.) congratulated the new member country on this important event. All members of the Security Council are confident that Turkmenistan will make a considerable contribution to the work of the UNO, he said.

Earlier the Security Council had recommended the General Assembly to admit into the UNO Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan and Moldova. All seven former Soviet republics are expected to be admitted to the UNO, when the 46th session of the UN General Assembly resumes its work in the end of February.

President Niyazov To Visit Tehran 16 Feb

OW0802163792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Turkmenian presidential press service, Saparmurad Niyazov has agreed to take part in a meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization to be held in the Iranian capital Tehran February 16. Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani invited Niyazov to the meeting in a personal message handed to Niyazov by the Iranian economy and finance minister February 7.

The press service reports during the meeting with Niyazov the Iranian minister stressed Iran's interest in gas and electric power supplies from Turkmenia.

Earlier, in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] a member of the Turkmenian Presidential Council and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenia Ata Chariyev confirmed that such supplies to northern provinces of Iran would make it possible for Iran to export gas extracted in its southern provinces. Chariyev noted that this project had been proposed by the Turkmenian side. Turkmenistan expects to receive from Iran food, consumer goods and help in promoting its gas and cotton on the world market.

Armenia

Official Denies Arms Airlifted to NKAO

LD0902211292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Feb 92

["Vesti" report by reporter A. Abramyan]

[Text] In winter the disastrous situation of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh becomes especially difficult. Those caught in the tight ring of the blockade of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic have no opportunity to import or export goods. Aid comes mainly from Armenia. Food, medicine, and clothing is brought here by helicopter. Recently "Vesti" carried a report from Baku showing crates marked "Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic KGB," indicating that this organization may be shipping arms here.

[Begin Armen Manukyan recording, captioned as head of the public relations department of the Armenian State National Security Administration] This report can be very easily refuted. It constitutes crude, fabricated disinformation. The fact is, when the former USSR KGB, or naturally the Armenian KGB, sent off freight, they would not mark it KGB, but service unit number so-and-so. I think comment is superfluous here. [end recording]

Presidential Advisor Views Situation

AU0702195792 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 3 Feb 92 pp 1,3

[Telephone interview with Aleksandr Arzomanyan, adviser to President Ter-Petrosyan, by Szerdahelyi in Yerevan; date not given: "Yerevan Would Even Welcome U.N. Observers—War Is Raging for Karabakh"]

[Text] Yerevan is not expecting real help from the United Nations in the near future. Nevertheless, it wanted to warn the world about the increasingly desperate war that is raging in Karabakh, Aleksandr Arzomanyan said on the telephone.

[Szerdahelyi] Is it possible for U.N. peacekeeping forces to be sent to Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Arzomanyan] For the time being, we would already be satisfied if observers arrived in the region. We are aware that peacekeeping forces will not be stationed in an area with war-like conditions. Yugoslavia is the best example of this. Sending in the blue helmets has been debated for many months, but the situation has not been found satisfactory yet. However, regardless of this, we had to point out that Azerbaijan has started a most violent war.

[Szerdahelyi] In your view, is it possible that the U.N. Security Council will deal with the Karabakh issue?

[Arzomanyan] I am not naive, and I think that the discussion of the conflict as an independent item on the agenda is almost impossible in the near future. There are, as it were, more burning issues, although I believe that, today, it is very hard to order things in this way. If the breakup of the SFRY is said to threaten even Europe's security, then we have to expect the same kind of danger in connection with Karabakh. The dissolution of the Soviet Union has brought very many unresolved tasks to the surface, and however painful it is, we cannot cope with all the problems on our own. The fact that the world is unconcerned about our struggle is at least as painful.

[Szerdahelyi] Well, in the past, it was said that the world should not interfere in domestic matters!

[Arzomanyan] This is still true today. However, we cannot talk about domestic matters following the emergence of the independent states, especially when a country asks for the help of another. Our inability to find a solution by ourselves is also proved by the failure of the Russian-Kazakh mediation mission.

[Szerdahelyi] Do you feel that Russia and Kazakhstan are leaving Yerevan on its own?

[Arzomanyan] I do not feel that but, in my view, Yeltsin is also unable to achieve peace. However, the only solution would be for Karabakh, populated by Armenians, to be given autonomy, because fighting will continue until this is done. In addition to this, the war has entered a new phase. While so-called armed free troops are fighting on the Armenian side, Baku is attacking Stepanakert with the national army. We are asking for the help of the United Nations precisely because state terror is being applied. The conflict, which has been going on for years, has shown that Azerbaijan—with Moscow's previous backing—is becoming increasingly aggressive. You may remember that, led by the United States, an aggressor was punished during the Iraq war, but it seems that Washington is content with its own successes.

[Szerdahelyi] To repeat my question, do you also blame Yeltsin for the current situation?

[Arzomanyan] Only to the extent that this is not the main problem for Yeltsin, either. Yeltsin is doing the same as Gorbachev did for years, namely he is making himself quite accepted in the West, but he has no actual results at home. Domestic policy and economic policy have a very weak footing, and the situation is also complicated by the fact that, as a result of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], in the future, domestic policy will also partially be foreign policy. However, if someone is not willing to do this—as, in this case, Baku—it has no place in the CIS.

[Szerdahelyi] Is Yerevan perhaps suggesting that Azerbaijan be excluded from the CIS?

[Arzomanyan] Even this is possible.

Parties Urge Recognition

LD1002111992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] A number of political parties in Armenia, including the Democratic, Socialist-Democratic, and Republican Parties and the Association for National Self-Determination [obyedinenie natsionalnoye samoopedeleniye], have called on Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, parliament, and the government to immediately recognize the independent Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to establish interstate relations with it.

Official: No Claims on Azeri, Turkish Lands

NC0902123492 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 5 Feb 92 pp 1, 11

[Report on an interview with Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Navasardyan by Nazlan Ertan in Istanbul; date not given]

[Text] Armenia has denied that it has territorial claims on Turkey, stressing that allegations that the young Soviet republic has dreams of "Greater Armenia" from the Black Sea to the Caspian were "nonsense."

Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Navasardyan told the TURKISH DAILY NEWS that Armenia, whose parliament was discussing membership in the United Nations and Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), would conduct its foreign policy in accordance with principles of non-violation of boundaries.

"To say that the Armenian Government wants to create a Greater Armenia from the Black Sea to the Caspian, is, to say the least, ridiculous," he said, referring to the TURKISH DAILY NEWS interview with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Guseyn Sadykhov.

"Those who say the Armenians have such illusions are dreaming. Just show me a document (regarding extensions towards Turkey or Azerbaijan) and I will eat it."

He reaffirmed that ties between Turkey and Armenia had improved and that Armenia presently has no territorial claims on Turkey.

When TURKISH DAILY NEWS reminded him that there were Armenian lobbies abroad, particularly in the United States, which have vocally demanded territory from Turkey, Navasardyan said: "Some Armenian groups which operate abroad do not reflect our policy at all In fact, there are certain tensions between them and the Armenian Government." In reference to the claims of an Armenian genocide, which Turkey rejects, Navasardyan said Armenia respected its history and "did not intend to forget it" but they wanted to develop good ties with Turkey.

"Armenian foreign policy is determined in Yerevan, based on respect of international norms and principles such as non-violability of boundaries," he said.

He added that the establishment of an Armenian embassy in Ankara and a Turkish embassy in Yerevan was expected. "Ambassador Volkan Vural, for whom I have great respect, shares this view," he said, in reference to the Turkish ambassador to Moscow who last year earned the title of the first Turkish ambassador to visit Yerevan.

He said bilateral relations would complement the multilateral ties being launched by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Scheme (BECS).

Later, Navasardyan said Armenia had no desire to include the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh in its territory. "We believe in the self-determination of the people of Karabakh," he said. "We are for a peaceful solution of the issue."

It should neither belong to Azerbaijan nor the Armenians. We have asked the CSCE to send observers there."

Asked about whether he was able to control the Armenian armed groups in the region, he replied: "At present, the events in the region can be controlled. But if the issue escalates, neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan can control it." Debating the terminology "armed Armenian gangs," he pointed out that even non-militant Armenians in the enclave were fighting against the Azerbaijanis to save their lives and property.

He said it was noteworthy that allegations of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh escalated when the ties between Turkey and Armenia improved.

Navasardyan added that the same could be said of terrorism perpetrated by ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia], an extremist terrorist group which targeted Turks abroad and claimed the shooting of the Turkish ambassador to Budapest, Bedrettin Tunabas, two months ago. "Given our data, ASALA has long ceased to exist in the historical arena. It has reached its peak, along with other international terrorist organizations," he said.

"But the acts of unstable people should not affect our bilateral ties. It is possible that people who do not want us to normalize our ties are using the name of ASALA."

Azerbaijan

Baker Report Received 'With Satisfaction'

LD0802183192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1615 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 8 Feb (TASS)—Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov says the United States can contribute positively to establishing peace among the Transcaucasian states.

The Azerbaijani leadership received the report on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's upcoming visit to the republic with satisfaction, Ayaz Mutalibov told today's meeting with Amoco President H. Laurance Fuller. The U.S. guest arrived in Baku on business together with the company's managers and top specialists.

With Azerbaijan having acquired independence, Ayaz Mutalibov thinks, more favorable conditions have also been created for developing mutually beneficial contracts with leading foreign firms. He expressed the conviction that the agreements previously reached between the U.S. and Azerbaijani specialists on joint work on "Azeri"—a promising Caspian Sea oil field—may become a sort of bridge in establishing close ties between the United States and Azerbaijan. Most of the profits from implementing the project will be reinvested into Azerbaijan's economy and social infrastructure.

Official Warns of Armenian 'Major Offensive'

LD0802212192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Major General (Shakhin), Azerbaijani deputy defense minister, claims that Armenia is planning a major offensive against his republic involving not guerrillas, but regular servicemen. The general says, in a BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY interview, that Armenia has reinforced itself through the armories of Soviet Army units stationed on its territory. Guerrillas also are being armed. The creation of a regular Armenian Army is proceeding successfully. This was reported by RIA in Baku.

Reportage Highlights Continued NKAO Fighting

Rayons Shelled

OW0702171492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Azeri forces were bombing Armenian villages situated along the border with Agdam region of Azerbaijan throughout Thursday [6 February] and well into the night. The most fierce bombardment was against the village of Parukh controlled by Armenian forces.

On Friday [7 February] night seven missiles "Alazan" were fired at the town of Khankendi (former Stepanakert) from Shusha. There were no damage or casualties.

The Azeri General Staff's Press Centre has said that Armenian forces shelled Shusha and villages in the Agdam and Fizuli districts on the night of December 7 and on Friday morning. Three people are reported to been killed and over 20 others wounded. In the town of Shusha 20 buildings were destroyed by the fire.

Azeri and Armenian sources report that the parties to the dispute are building up their forces.

Armenian 'Criminal Actions' Protested

OW0702174392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian [as received] Foreign Ministry has lodged a protest with Armenia over "criminal actions by Armenian militants" in Nagorno-Karabakh and demanded respect for the sovereign rights of Azerbaijan.

The message of protest says that "cruel actions in Karabakh by those who seek to carry out Armenia's expansionist plans have jeopardized the chances of ending the crisis by political means".

'Foreign Nationals' Involved

LD1002110492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1012 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"Foreign nationals are indeed involved in the conflict (in Nagorno-Karabakh) and, furthermore, on both sides," the KOMMERSANT weekly confirmed today, citing "informed sources." According to data it has received, up to 50 foreign citizens are fighting on the Armenian side, in particular, Lebanese Armenians and Maronites. KOMMERESANT cites the opinion of unnamed experts who think that the Azerbaijani airline helicopter recently shot down near Shusha was hit by a Stinger-type rocket imported from abroad. In addition to Stingers, German-made G-3 and N-K-4 rifles have also appeared in Karabakh.

The Armenian side, in the person of Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet, accuses the Azerbaijanis of using 100-150 Iranian mercenaries from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. They are also fighting using their own weapons. Given that the border between Iran and Azerbaijan is virtually unsupervized, the movement of combat groups, weapons and money from one country to another presents no difficulties, the weekly comments.

Adviser Doubts Russian Neutrality

LD0802211992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Report by Baku correspondent M. Mamedov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] People have once again been killed and wounded not in Karabakh but hundreds of kilometers away from the conflict zone, in border areas of Azerbaijan. A number of villages in Zangelan, Kubatly, and Tauz Districts have been subjected to massive bombardment. Furthermore, armed gangs tried to penetrate deep into Azerbaijan from Kafan District, Armenia. The number of helicopters flying from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh has also increased. They are carrying not potatoes or flour but combat groups and equipment:

[Begin R. Musabekov, Azerbaijani presidential adviser on ethnic relations, recording] Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan nor any other adjacent state is interested in a large-scale war. All this will, I believe, prompt the sides to solve the problem through talks and a mutually acceptable agreement. As for Russia's mediation, it has, I would say, taken a somewhat obtrusive form of late. We realize that it will be difficult to resolve the problem in the region without bearing in mind Russia's role and influence. However, at the same time let me say frankly that, following Russia's conclusion of a security treaty with Armenia, Russia is not regarded by public opinion in the Republic as a neutral and objective force. However, we are not questioning the wish of the Russian leadership and the Russian people to see a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, to see an end to the bloodshed there. [end recording]

Mutalibov's Assassination Plot Denied

LD0702200192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1840 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By unidentified AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 7 Feb (AZERINFORM-TASS)—The president of Azerbaijan's press service today denied an RIA report alleging that Ayaz Mutalibov had said that an assassination attempt against him was being prepared. A statement issued here describes the report as "another fictitious story aimed at provoking nervousness in society and creating a malevolent atmosphere around the republic." The Azerbaijani president's press service stated that the president of the republic had asserted "nothing of the sort."

Georgia

Sigua, Yeltsin To Discuss Economic Cooperation

LD1002131692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A news conference given by the Georgian Government and its chairman, Tengiz Sigua, has just ended in Moscow. He confirmed that the country's political situation is returning to normal. The last pocket of resistance by Gamsakhurdia supporters, in Sukhumi, has been eliminated. The country's economic situation is difficult, but Georgia hopes to sign agreements with the Commonwealth of Independent States countries and to obtain investments from European states. Sigua will meet Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Burbulis today to discuss economic cooperation.

Sigua on Commonwealth, Gamsakhurdia

LD0802200492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Although Georgia still has not joined the Commonwealth, it intends to participate as an observer in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] leaders' meeting in Minsk on 14 February. Sigua, head of Georgia's provisional government, told RIA that the republic's parliament will decide whether Georgia will become a full member of the Commonwealth. A Georgian delegation is participating as an observer at the current CIS leaders' meeting in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Sigua also told RIA today that reliable reports indicate Zviad Gamsakhurdia is currently in Chechen with Dudayev. Sigua says the situation in Georgia continues to settle down. In particular, railway services between Sukhumi and Moscow, between Sukhumi and Tbilisi, between Tbilisi and Moscow, and between Yerevan and Tbilisi resumed today. Other railway services have also been reopened.

Sigua Confirms Signing Food Imports Accord

LD0802222192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Tengiz Sigua, prime minister of Georgia's interim government, who participated as an observer in today's meeting of the council of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] heads of government, told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that his republic signed the accord reached today on centralized import purchases of food, agricultural raw materials, and pesticides using foreign credits. He made clear that these credits are intended not only for the CIS states, but also for Georgia. The head of Georgia's interim cabinet further remarked that he will participate in the next meeting of Commonwealth leaders if invited. He added that he intends to go to the meeting in Minsk on 14 February.

Gamsakhurdia Appeals For Foreign Support

MK0802085092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 92 p 3

[Extracts from 27 January appeal by ousted Georgian President Z. Gamsakhurdia "to the United Nations, the Peoples and Governments of the World, and All People of Good Will", from "facsimile copy given to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA": "I, The People's Elected Legal President of Georgia..."—ellipses in parentheses are as published]

[Text] (...) In January 1992 political adventurists and the local mafia set up an armed junta in Georgia that began a war against the constitutionally elected president and government with a view to seizing power (...)

Wanting to avoid bloodshed, I was forced to leave the capital, the junta burned the parliament building, and my house, which is at the same time the home of my father—the outstanding Georgian writer, Konstantin Gamsakhurdia—was also destroyed and looted.

Operating under the "democracy" slogan, the junta committed and is continuing to commit unheard-of crimes against the people. It is firing on peaceful rallies and demonstrations, it is arresting totally innocent people solely because they protest against it, and several parliamentary deputies have been detained.

(...) The junta has announced that it has removed me from power and dissolved the parliament; however, it has no legal or moral right to do this. I have not resigned or dissolved the parliament, and only the parliament has the right to set new elections with my consent. Therefore I am still the legitimate president, and the "provisional" government set up by the junta is an impostor.

I urge the United Nations and the peoples, parliaments, and governments of all countries, particularly those that recognized Georgia's recent independence, to expose the military junta's most flagrant violation of human rights and international legal norms in the country (...)

[Signed] Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia
Georgia, 27 January, 1992

Gamsakhurdia Sends 'Open Letter' to Yeltsin

LD0802094792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] An open letter from Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the former president of Georgia, to Russian President Boris Yeltsin was published on 7 February. The preamble to the publication says that a copy of the letter was brought by a courier from western Georgia. In the letter, Gamsakhurdia levels the accusation against the Transcaucasus Military District and Boris Yeltsin that the military supplied the opposition with combat equipment and weapons by the order of the Russian president.

In Gamsakhurdia's view, Georgia is being ruled by the dictatorship of a military junta comparable with the Third Reich in Germany and the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia.

Spokesman Urges Gamsakhurdia's Cooperation

MK0702140092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 3

[NEGA (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA) report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Georgia"]

[Text] On the morning of 6 February Tengiz Dikhamindzhiya, Military Council spokesman, left for a meeting with deposed president Gamsakhurdia.

On the evening of 5 February the Military Council had authorized in writing Tengiz Dikhamindzhiya, Military Council member from the "Charter-91" faction, to hold talks with the deposed Georgian president; he was given verbal authorization from Tengiz Sigua, Provisional Government prime minister.

As you know, the "Charter-91" parliamentary faction recently issued a statement offering the Military Council and the Georgian Provisional Government their program for stabilizing the situation in the republic. Following this, people close to President Gamsakhurdia, in particular Bidzina Georgobiani, member of the "Roundtable," have offered their mediation in organizing talks between the new authorities and Gamsakhurdia.

Georgobiani and Dikhamindzhiya have left Tbilisi. The site of the meeting with the ex-president is not known; the delegation traveled toward the northern Caucasus.

NEGA's correspondent was told by Merab Uridiya, member of the "Charter-91" faction, that the talks should consider the possibility of holding Georgian Supreme Soviet elections in the near future and a referendum on the Georgian state system, in particular on preserving presidential rule.

According to Uridiya, the deposed president's involvement in the political process and his agreement to holding new Supreme Soviet elections and a referendum will help stabilize the situation in the republic. "Charter-91" believes that of late the Provisional Government's economic policy has caused discontent among the population, manifested in an increase in the number of people involved in antigovernment demonstrations. It has already been announced that one person died, two were seriously injured, and 30 sustained slight injuries during an exchange of fire between participants in one demonstration and national guardsmen last Sunday [2 February]. What is more, according to Uridiya, it is necessary for the president to recognize the Provisional Government in order to reassure public opinion. It is desirable that Gamsakhurdia issue an appeal for order and calm on television. The statement may be recorded during the talks.

Government Forces Take Pro-Gamsakhurdia Town

AU0802201092 Paris AFP in English 1937 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, Feb 8 (AFP)—Georgian Government troops have taken control of another town in western Georgia after supporters of ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia failed to put up any resistance, a senior Georgian official said Saturday [8 February].

Dzhaba Ioseliani, one of the top officials in the government set up after Gamsakhurdia was toppled more than a month ago, told the INTERFAX news agency that troops entered Gagra, a resort on the banks of the Black Sea, on Friday [7 February].

Gagra is the latest Gamsakhurdia stronghold to fall to Tbilisi forces despite an attempt by the ousted president to rally his supporters in the west of the former Soviet republic. Among the other western towns to fall recently are Zugdidi, Poti and Sukhumi.

Ioseliani said former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a Georgian, planned to visit Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, "in the near future."

Gamsakhurdia, who has dropped out of sight since his ouster, was a bitter rival of Shevardnadze, frequently accusing him of being "an enemy of the Georgian people."

Tbilisi Rallies To Be Dispersed 'by Force'

LD0702164192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1442 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Measures to observe the regime of the special situation in Tbilisi will be tightened up. All rallies and demonstrations will be dispersed by force of arms. This was stated in an interview for an INTERFAX correspondent by Georgiy Arveladze, deputy commandant of the city. In his words, the commandant's office is currently able to control the situation in Tbilisi completely, since national guard units and the units of the Mhedrioni organization have returned from western Georgia to the city. Meanwhile INTERFAX has been told by the press center of the Military Council in Sukhumi that the night between 6 and 7 February passed off peacefully in Abkhazia, the autonomous republic which forms part of Georgia and which was entered by Georgian Government troops on Thursday [6 February]. No armed clashes were recorded. The railway resumed operations on Thursday and this made it possible to despatch several trainloads of cargo to Tbilisi. Poorly attended rallies of supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, ex-president of Georgia, took place in Sukhumi the evening of 6 February. The only place where there is tension in Georgia today is the town of Signakhi, stated the press center. About 1,000 Gamsakhurdia supporters are staging rallies in his defense there, sabotaging the operation of enterprises. Zviad's men blocked one of the town's central streets on 7 February.

The Georgian Government troops entered Sukhumi with the Abkhazia Government's consent. It is a temporary and forced measure, since supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, accused of state and common crimes, fled to Abkhazia. This was stated by Georgiy Karkarashvili, a representative of the National Guard Command, at a news conference in Sukhumi. In his words, it is planned to take measures against persons destabilizing the social and political situation in Georgia jointly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the autonomous republic. The Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia stated that the Government of Georgia furnished firm guarantees that National Guards would be withdrawn from the republic immediately after a normal regime of operations of railway transport has been restored. The statement of the Abkhaz parliament, adopted in the evening of 6 February, stresses that the leadership of Abkhazia consented to the introduction of Georgian Government troops into the autonomous republic only after the failure of the repeated negotiations between the authorities and the leaders of the civil disobedience movement, negotiations which failed to yield the desired results.

Military Council Troops Reach Western Border

LD1002035592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Troops of the military council of Georgia have reached the western borders of the republic and are in complete control of the situation, ANI reports.

A rally was held in Sukhumi on 9 February in which several hundred people participated. According to Georgiy (?Amtsebreshvili), the deputy military commander of Zugdidi, the situation in the city has been calm for the past few days: There have been no rallies or demonstrations and enterprises are working.

It was reported a few days ago that Tengiz (?Zikhamidzhe) and (?Begin Nagiorgimbiyane), deputies of the parliament of Georgia, left Tbilisi to meet President Gamsakhurdia. (?Zikhamidzhe) appeared on republican television on 9 February and said that the talks with the fugitive president had been postponed bacause of unfavorable [word indistinct] weather conditions. He said he still did not know Gamsakhurdia's precise whereabouts.

Shevardnadze, Baker To Visit Tbilisi Soon

LD0702223192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tengiz Ablotia from the IPRINDA news agency in Tbilisi reports the following on today's events in Tbilisi.

[Ablotia] Today, 7 February, was relatively quiet throughout Georgia. To all appearances, the confrontation between the opposition, who won, and the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia has disappeared gradually. A normal life is returning gradually to Georgia. A regular session of the Coordinating Committee of Political Parties was held today, where the question of the upcoming parliamentary elections was discussed.

Overall, the orientation of the new Georgian policy has become clear. The majority of political and social organizations believe it necessary to restore the operation of the 1921 Georgian constitution. This will immediately bring several positive features to the life of the republic.

In the first place, the future status of the Georgian state would be clarified, because the restoration of the old constitution would mean continuation with regard to the policy toward the restoration of full Georgian independence.

Second, the activities of the interim government would acquire some legality in this case. In this respect, Gamsakhurdia would be regarded as the president elected in accordance with the USSR Constitution, and therefore some doubt may be cast on his legality.

Another piece of information: Recently, representatives of the bloc Charter-91 and the Roundtable went to Groznyy to hold talks with the former president. What the result of these talks will be can be only guessed at.

And the latest information. As has become known to the IPRINDA agency from reliable but unofficial sources, Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in Tbilisi in the very near future.

S. Ossetia Names Terms for Settlement

LD1002071592 Moscow Radio Sto Odin in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Interview with South Ossetian Supreme Soviet Deputy Larisa Ostayeva by correspondent Leonid Zhukov; date and place not given]

[Text] Now for news on events in Ossetia and Georgia. Questions of stabilizing the social and political situation in the region and alleviating tensions in relations between Ossetia and Georgia were at the center of attention of the session of the South Ossetian Republic Supreme Soviet held in Tskhinval. Everything now depends on what the leaders of the South Ossetian Republic and representatives of the interim Georgian Government agree on. Agreement will be sought on the basis of certain conditions that were adopted at the previous session of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet held at the end of January. Larisa Ostayeva, South Ossetian Supreme Soviet deputy, gives an outline of these conditions in an interview with Leonid Zhukov, a Radio Sto Odin correspondent.

[Begin Ostayeva recording] The republic's Supreme Soviet adopted an appeal to the interim government of the Republic of Georgia in which preliminary conditions necessary for the beginning of official talks between the two independent republics were spelled out. They are:

1. Implementation of a cease-fire, withdrawal of Georgian fighters from the territory of South Ossetia, and the lifting of the blockade;

2. Immediate release of all people of Ossetian nationality unlawfully detained during the period of Georgian occupation and held in prisons and interrogation cells in the Republic of Georgia;

3. Legal and political recognition and condemnation of the genocide of the Ossetian people in 1920, 1989, and 1992;

4. Reparations for the material losses suffered by South Ossetia at the hands of the Georgian side both in the twenties—5 million rubles in gold—as well as in 1989 and 1992;

5. Attendance of representatives of the Russian Federation, North Ossetia, and United Nations observers during the talks. It is also stipulated that the talks must be held on neutral territory.

The only reaction of the Georgian side so far has been the formation of a group in the rayon [as heard] soviet that will conduct the talks. No further steps have been taken so far. [end recording]

That was Larissa Ostayeva, deputy of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet, especially for Radio Sto Odin.

Names Council of Ministers Chairman

LD0902234392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The stabilization of the sociopolitical situation in the region and the elimination of tension in Ossetian-Georgian relations were the focus of attention of a session of the Supreme Soviet of the South Ossetian Republic held in Tskhinval. An acting chairman of the Council of Ministers of the South Ossetian Republic was chosen. He is (Oleg Bediyev), commander of South Ossetia's armed forces.

A decree on the imposition of a state of emergency throughout the territory of South Ossetia was confirmed, and a law on citizenship of the republic was passed. There was a reaffirmation of the desire of the South Ossetian Republic's leadership to hold talks with authorized representatives of the provisional government of Georgia, but only under certain conditions. The Georgian side has to immediately put an end to armed confrontation in South Ossetia, lift the economic and transport blockade of Tskhinval, and give firm guarantees that the 100,000 refugees can return to their homes.

Shooting Resumes in South Ossetia

LD0902094692 Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 9 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 9— "A lull after a storm" is how a spokesman at the South Ossetia information committee's press centre described the socio-political situation in the region. Last night, throughout the region, including the crisis-ridden zones—the far approaches to Tskhinval and villages of Znauri district—there were no instances of armed clashes between the conflicting sides or seizure of hostages. This morning, however, a checkpoint of Interior-Ministry troops on the outskirts of the administrative centre was fired upon from automatic weapons from the direction of the Georgian village of Nikoziy. A report came in later on that at the boundary with neighbouring Goriy district, where supporters of the deposed president of Georgia are primarily present, aimed fire on Ossetian villages was conducted from sniper rifles. Self-defence detachments returned the fire to neutralise attackers' weapon emplacements. There have been no casualty reports from the Ossetian side.